

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held at Priddy Village Hall, 10am 21st November 2025

Present:

Partnership Committee

David Turner	Chair
Cllr Theo Butt Phillip	Vice Chair, Somerset Council
Jim Hardcastle	National Landscape Manager
David Julian	CPRE
Simon Clarke	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Jo Lewis	Natural England
Rachel Thompson MBE	The Trails Trust
Lauren Holt	National Trust
Tina Bath	Mendip Society
Cllr Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset
Di Sheppard	Bath & North East Somerset
Cllr Annemieke Waite	North Somerset Council
Barbra Lakin	Somerset Council Officer
James Small	NFU Farming Representative
Esther Coffin-Smith	North Somerset Council

Other attendees

Ian Bowen	Landscape Planning Officer
Joanna Cheung	Support and Communications Officer
Tim Haselden	Project Development Officer

Apologies

Cllr Edric Hobbs (Vice Chair)	Somerset Council
Cllr Ros Wyke	Somerset Council Councillor
Steve Dury	Somerset Council Officer
Duncan Anderson Margetts	Country Land and Business Association
Cllr Roger Dollins	Somerset Parish Councils Representative
Fern Elias-Stagg	Avon Wildlife Trust

Summary of Actions

	Item	Notes	Action
1	Introduction and Apologies	Apologies as stated above.	
2	Declaration of interest	No declarations.	
3	Notes of Previous Meeting	No other matters arising. Accepted as a true and accurate record.	JC
4	Partner Updates	BL – we have hired a second ecologist - LNRS has moved on, now reviewing comments from consultation - Draft report will be ready in January 2026 with a final version in February/March - New BNG Officer - Call for sites moved forward TBP – Cllr Nick Cottle passed away and has been replaced by Cllr Ros Wyke PC – Challenging housing allocation, doubled by government DT – important point, how do we react to development pressure, how do we engage with that process DS – Fundraising from Wessex Water via WINEP - Nature recovery and climate resilience programme - Chew catchment - Cam & Wellow includes Limestone Link - Requests a contact at Somerset Council BL – offers to speak to Di and provide a relevant contact ECS – new extended consultation zones - Bat project extended - Looking for landowners who can have bat detectors on their property - Flood manager two flood management schemes, Burrington Coombe & Dolebury, aiming to slow the flow in those areas	

		AW – Local plan out for consultation, aiming for early spring DT – I have a meeting with Mandy Fisher so would like to catch up with AW & ECS PC – We also have a new CE, will pass on contact details JL – Natural England has launched a new strategy on nature recovery - Building better places - Improving health and wellbeing - Improving security for nature - Natural England's Strategy: Recovering Nature for Growth, Health and Security - GOV.UK - have allocated money to Mendip, several new projects including: - Priddy Mineries research - Geology specialist to speak to Longleat LH – staff changes as per notes - Work updates as per notes - Focus on Dolebury Warren - Heritage England no longer need scheduled consent for scrub clearance - Put in a NE species recovery project re fritillaries with Dartmoor and Exmoor, have also been speaking to Nathan about it - Working with RT on strategic access group SC – update as per notes JH – no parish councils reps here - We asked parishes in North Somerset and B&NES to put forward a rep but we did not hear anything back - How do we get a PC rep? - Updates Partnership on what team has done to find reps so far LA Officers - offer to help with their contacts TB – events, walks and talks programme ongoing - Strawberry line partnership - Good meeting with DT and JH - Working with Parish Council so may be able to help with finding Representatives	
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		- Bat surveys, may be able to help find locations for bat detectors (NSC) - Offered to work with NT re welcome team DT – good meeting with Mendip Society, excited about more coordinated action between us DJ – various planning applications as per notes RT – mainly working on strategic access group, details as per detailed notes DT – incredible achievement, creating a significant new link - Partnership should see it when work is created - Relevant to Burrington Inn development - Thank you Rachel for leading our first task group RT – working with Lauren on the task group JH – next step is to sell the success to Defra RT – meeting with Defra yesterday, I made the point that Access for All and FiPL funding has been crucial	
5	Members' Accord Signatures	JC – will get signatures from PC, TBP, AW, JS, SC	
6	Election of Visitor Economy Representative on the Partnership	DT – two strong applications - Propose we co-opt both members to Partnership - Justification is strengthening our business representation, both can help us to work with business community - Do I have support? TBP – sound sensible All – agreed JH – I will invite them	
7	MHNL Draft Management Plan 2025-2030 Update	IB – introduction - Talks through Paper B - Discussion of why management plan is important - Sets out overall vision - Description of the special qualities - Targets from Defra are included	

		- This is a plan for all stakeholders, not just the MHNL Team - Conserving and enhancing special qualities - Important change to CRow act is duty to “have regard” is now “seek to further the purposes” - This puts an onus on local authorities to have a systematic approach - Useful document for approaching this re section 106 funding - It will be used in context of a delivery plan and a recreation plan - It is the culmination of consultation and engagement - There was a six week consultation, summary of responses received is in Appendix 2 - Now asking for your endorsement JL - NE will make a formal response IB – Then it will go to the LAs DT – any specific comments from the floor? None DT – we are now approving these objectives - very powerful documents - there will be a shorter document for wider audience - how we use it effectively with LAs - helps us challenge them effectively PC – what are the targets and timescales? DT – these will be in the delivery plan which follows this JH – make the targets stand out in a public summary document DT – LA reps how do we sign this on JH – thank you to Ian for bringing rigour to the process DT – Makes the three recommendations at the end of Paper A, to which the Partnership all agree - authority delegated to JH to proceed to final phase	
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8	State of the Mendip Hills Addendum: Census Update	JH – Please take time to read the document, it has very interesting statistics Population is up to 7,204 - Working from home is a big increase, meaning there is less travel DT – can we work with LAs to get more information on wider catchment, ie regarding housing JH – we often like to include villages on boundary, which would be a population of 20,000 TB – vehicle count would be useful DT – need to ask right questions to Highway Authority - HGV traffic - Accident locations - Highway design	
9	Focus on the preparation of the MHNL 5 Year Delivery Plan	JH – proposes a new structure to the delivery plan, guided by four main themes listed in Paper C DJ – asks if economy will feature? JH – I have seen an example plan which I will send round as a good example. TH – requests volunteers for a working group DT/TB – re historic apple orchard and community orchards. Are these included? TH – Yes JS – what kind of agreement do you need? ie private agreement, perpetuity, annual agreement, SFI, CS agreement JL – all of those could apply TH – Defra have been quite vague on that point General discussion of what is appropriate among the group	

		SC – The target is restore or create, so it doesn't have to be new woodland. Restoration may be easier to achieve. TH – 30 by 30 also applies TH leads workshop to start work on the delivery plan using maps to gather ideas for potential locations DT – requests feedback from the working group before the next meeting in March DT – proposes additional meeting to focus on Landscape Connections bid	
10	Capital spend allocation 2025-2026	JH introduces paper D - we need to be seen to do good - Remind partnership to mention us in press releases and tag us on socials	
11	MHNL Team Activity Plan 2025-2026 update	JH, TH & ND give a presentation of the MHNL Team's work over the last few months. DT – we need a separate meeting to focus on NLHF Landscape Connections bid - It is strategically significant because of the amount of money available TH – explains two possible options for making the bid DT – we need to focus on what we want to apply for before we decide how to apply LH – the levels had a productive meeting to work on their bid. We may be able to find out some details from them. BL – Coastal Path officer from Somerset also relevant to meeting DT – thanks to the team	
12	AOB	DT – requests poll to find a date for Landscape Connections meeting at end of January	JC
13	Date of next meeting	19th March 10am In person meeting	

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	10am 27 th November 2025	
Title:	Agenda	
Presented by:	NA	
Priddy Village Hall, Priddy BA5 3BE		

1. Introductions and Apologies
2. Declaration of Interest
3. Notes of Previous Meeting. To be approved
4. Partner updates.
5. Members accord signatures
6. Election of Visitor Economy Representative on the Partnership. Two candidates;
David Eddins, Dave White.
7. MHNL Draft Management Plan 2025-2030 Update. Paper A, appendix 1 and 2
8. State of the Mendip Hills Addendum: Census Update. Paper B
9. Focus on the preparation of the MHNL 5 Year Delivery Plan. Paper C
10. Capital spend allocation 2025-2026. Paper D
11. MHNL Team Activity Plan 2025-2026 update. Paper E and verbal presentation
12. AOB
13. Date of 2025 -2026 meetings: 19th March 10am In-person

Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	27 th November 2025	
Title:	Partner Updates	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle	
To be noted.		

1. Somerset Council

Nathaniel Legall, Senior Ecologist has joined the Ecology team the beginning May. Nathaniel brings with him ten years of ecology experience within Network Rail, consultancy firms and National Highways. We are currently advertising for the second Senior Ecologist position now.

The Flood Risk Strategy for Somerset has an open consultation with the public with a further workshop recently held.

We are now in the process of finalising the draft Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy ready for public consultation, which is expected to launch late August / early September. The mapping element has taken longer than expected, and Somerset Council is currently in discussions with Somerset Wildlife Trust over refining the map. Mendip NL have been actively engaged in developing the draft LNRS.

Timelines moving forward:

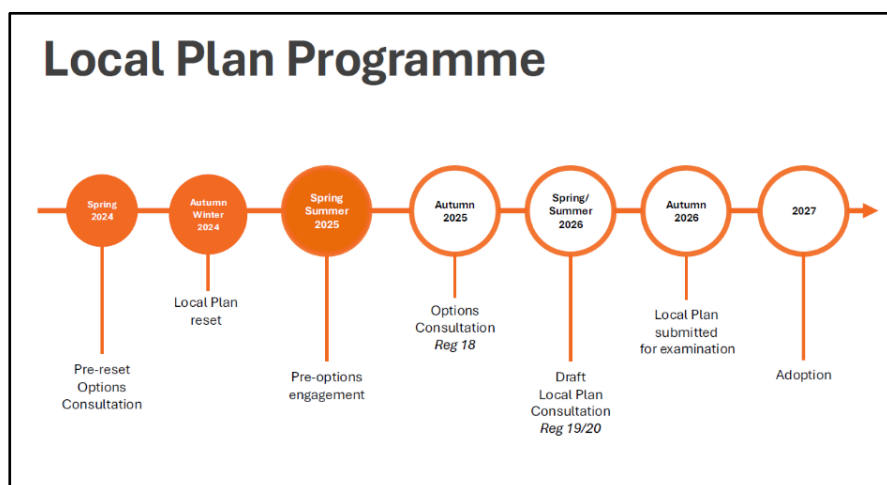
- Formal Pre-consultation period
 - Draft strategy to be reviewed by supporting authorities and neighbouring Responsible Authorities for four weeks (commenced 9 June)
 - NE Review Panel meeting 13 June (will receive recommendations shortly)
 - ENPA Board meeting 1 July
- Finalisation of draft consultation strategy – July
 - Resolution of any pre-consultation matters identified as needing to be addressed
- Public consultation – Expected to commence in late August / early Sept
 - Six-week public consultation period
- Finalisation of Strategy and consultation response – Expected in September
 - Finalisation of the Strategy following the public consultation response
- Pre-publication requirements – Expected in October
 - Final strategy to Supporting Authorities and neighbouring Responsible Authorities for four weeks
- Final version published – Expected around November
 - Formal approval by Somerset Council to publish

2. BANES

Local Plan

Our Local Plan Options Consultation has just closed, and the diagram shows the timeline going forward. This timeline is very tight indeed and we are required to submit the plan for examination by December 2026. Preparation of evidence base and plan writing in readiness for the Draft

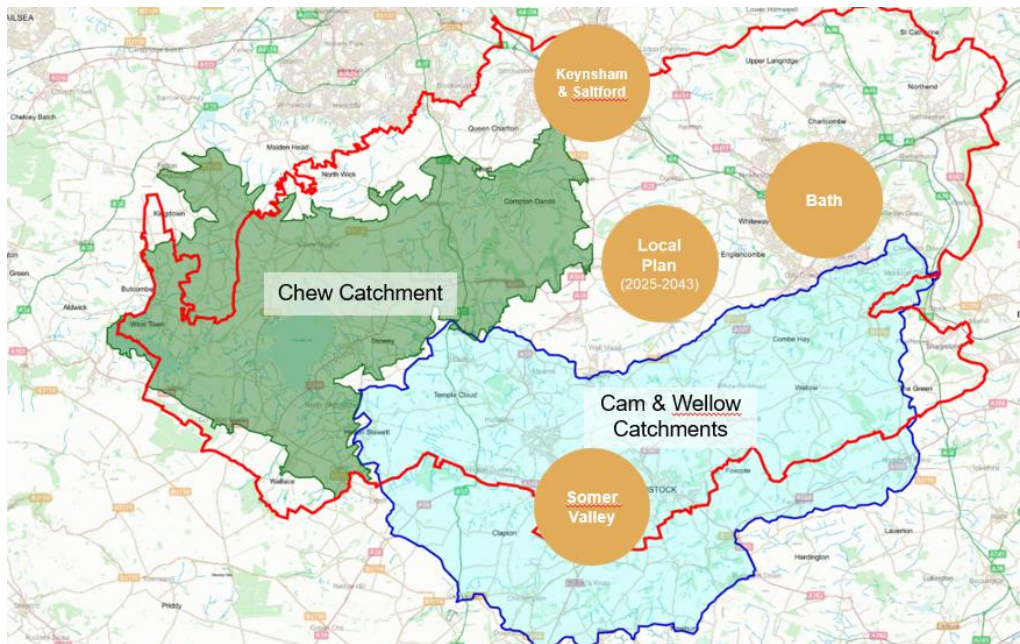
Local Plan Consultation has to be completed prior to May 2026 which is less than half the normal amount of time we would expect.



We will be working with MHNL and CNL in the very near future to review and update our landscape policy NE2 which includes policy on the National Landscapes.

NEW - Connecting Catchments Programme

B&NES has secured match funding from Wessex Water (via the WINEP – Water Industry National Environment Programme) to support the co-development of the Chew Valley Reconnected (Chew catchment) and the Somer Valley Rediscovered (Cam & Wellow catchments) Partnership Programmes. Parts of both of these have relevance to the NL – Chew Valley Lake area in particular for the Chew catchment and Limestone Link (Cam and Wellow catchments). B&NES is also working with Bristol Water to secure a funding contribution (via the WINEP) towards the Chew Valley Partnership work although this is mainly outside the NL. The intention is to work with both partnerships to co-design and co-develop a programme to enable both catchments to become more investment ready to deliver nature recovery, climate and health and wellbeing benefits at scale, aiming to move from the development phase into delivery phase by 2027/28. Zoe Hancock is the programme manager for this work and she is seeking a contact in Somerset Council to work with in relation to the area of Somerset within the Cam and Wellow catchments – see map. Contact suggestions gratefully received to Zoe (zoe_hancock@bathnes.gov.uk) or Di Sheppard (di_sheppard@bathnes.gov.uk). Apologies for the lack of a NL boundary on the map below.



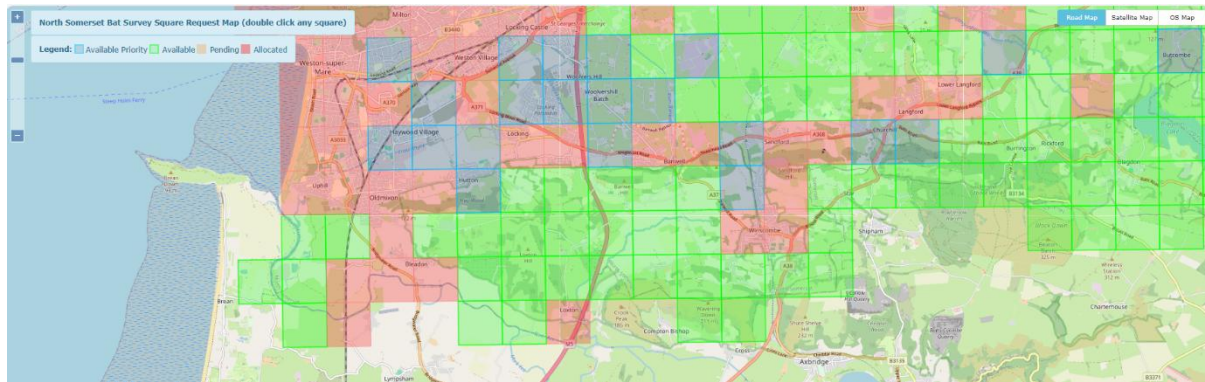
3. NSC

We are soon to be consulting on an updated North Somerset and Mendip Bat SAC SPD (the NL team should have been invited to an engagement event on the 2nd July). The main updates are:

- Reviewed and updated following a piece of research conducted for NSC by UWE.
- Main conclusion of the research: our populations of horseshoe bats are having to fly further to forage.
- Size of the consultation zones is proposed to increase to reflect this - greater emphasis, across a larger area of North Somerset, on both the survey effort and level of mitigation required to demonstrate that development will not impact on these species.
- New roosts which have been discovered since the previous SPD was published have been added to the consultation zone maps.
- Requirements in relation to upfront lighting modelling have also been increased.
- Habitat Evaluation Protocol tool (used to determine the amount of mitigation land required) has been updated.
- North Somerset Nature Park (NSNP) initiative is introduced (locations are chosen based on habitat and connectivity modelling, also produced by UWE).

Most of the Mendip Hills NL was already covered by the consultation zones but now it all is and the majority is in zone B for one or both horseshoe species.

The Great North Somerset Bat Project is live and landowners/residents can sign up here to reserve a 1km square to site a detector in: [Booking](#) Blue and green squares are currently available to reserve. More information on the project can be found here: [North Somerset Bat Survey | BatConservResLab](#)



If people aren't aware, our Chief Executive Jo Walker has now moved on and her replacement, Mandy Bishop, joins the Council in August.

4. Natural England

5. National Trust

June – Nov 2025

Staff

- National Trust has moved through phase 1 of Sustainable Futures Programme, Lauren will be moving from Area Ranger to Lead Ranger in January 2026 with Mid Somerset and Quantock Hills merging together with Lauren leading the team. All other local rangers have retained positions however we have lost our Welcome team. Nigel Garnsworthy has moved into a new Restore Nature Delivery Manager role.
- Tilly joined us in September as our new apprentice and Eve has successfully secured an Area Ranger role in Cotswolds as her contract as an apprentice nears completion in February 2026.

Work Updates

Cheddar

- Works on Hells Steps at Cheddar Gorge in final week will be completed by December 2025. Plans at Black Rock for car parking area are on hold but will be tidied in some capacity as all the boulders were stripped out for Hell's Steps. MHNL volunteers did some work over summer to top up aggregate along the top path which was resurfaced in 2024 and so far is holding up well.
- Countryside Stewardship Highter Tier application has been internally submitted for Cheddar Gorge, anticipated commencement in Spring 2026. Plans are in place to move to NoFence grazing system at Black Rock with sheep and cattle to improve grazing in the difficult to manage valley bottom
- Matt our wildlife manager has been working in partnership with SWT and Longleat to prioritise health and welfare of feral sheep and goat population at Cheddar and looking into starting deer management. We've had quite a few call outs this year for injured sheep and goats and we now have much bigger oversight over the wildlife in the gorge. Some evidence to suggest we are being successful in hefting the animals back into the gorge compartment away from neighbouring farms. We were successful in getting a grant for a chiller trailer so will be able to manage wildlife and explore food chain options going forward.

Dolebury Warren

- Upgrading southern boundary at Dolebury Warren has begun working in partnership with North Somerset's NFM project to supply timber from ash that is being cleared along the fence line thanks to 30x30 funding from MHNL
- Work on resurfacing and regrading "Stoney Lane" bridleway and access to east entrance of Dolebury Warren is underway which will link into Northern Linear route on strategic access project
- Started working with a grazing consultant at Dolebury Warren to supercharge our grazing efforts and maximise use of NoFence grazing system which we hope to share with NNR partnership going forward.
- Successful in gaining additional grants from Natural England and Big Chalk to carry out capital work on scrub at Dolebury Warren and upgrade the livestock handling pen on the east side to work in conjunction with the upgrades to the trackway to improve the overall grazing system.
- Repeat scrub clearance work will be carried out on ramparts / hillfort in new year Crook Peak
- Ash Dieback work at Crook Peak on Compton Bishop side is nearing completion with over 100 tonnes of timber being removed
- Moving into winter work we've undergone a big chunk of our tree safety works already so now able to move onto scrub management and regular business as usual on Crook Peak working on areas which we've been targeting for 3-4 years now and are looking vastly improved. Some major challenges with grazing in summer with abandoning of grazing altogether at Crook Peak in July but grassland seems to have bounced back well
- Walling project on Cross Plain continues by Hill Farm and we've successfully recruited a small batch of new wallers to help support the group

Partnership

See updates from Rachel Thompson – NT have partnered up on access project and started work on delivering access improvements at Luvers Lane/ Burrington

6. SWT

SWT Reserves:

Its business as usual on the reserves as we enter the busy Autumn/Winter period. On the back of some joint NNR partnership delivery work over the summer SWT will be hosting some NNR practical days for partners on our reserves over the coming months.

- Thanks to MHNL funding SWT have purchased a new Flail Mower for its Mendips reserves. This has already seen good use clearing bramble.

- The team have also purchased a mobile Defibrillator unit, which was received this week, again thanks to MHNL funding.

Mendips Farm Cluster:

- The Farm Cluster is now sitting at 46 members, covering over 7200ha across the NCA.

- We had a successful first meeting with 9 other farm cluster facilitators in the West of England (Super Cluster) to discuss shared successes and challenges and how we can best leverage our contiguous landscape scale working areas.

- It has been quiet on the event front, but lots is now planned for the new year and spring: so, if any events are being planned in the partnership, please could they let us know so we can do our best to co-promote and not compete.
- Our big focus is trying to secure project funding for after our CSFF ends at the end of May, if the partnership knows of any potential pots aimed at environmental work on/with farms rather than communities more broadly, sharing would be appreciated.

Wider Landscape work:

- SWT have had confirmation of match funding from Holcim UK for the East Mendip part of our "Mendip Woodland Links for Dormice and Pine marten project". This directly links to the work in West Mendip funded by FIPL. We are discussing with our comms team and Penny White from the National Landscape team on how best to promote this partnership project with different funders, including a proposed article in the Mendip Times.
- There has been an emphasis on surveying Local Wildlife Sites this summer. If there are any sites which are known to be good quality habitat in the Mendip NL area which could be candidates for LWS designation, and if landowners may be interested in having this designation, please contact Lila Morris lila.morris@somersetwildlife.org. Lila is currently making a list of sites to visit next year as part of our LWS work in Mendip.

Species Recovery Call for ideas:

Following the launch of the Natural England Species Recovery 'Call for Ideas' and following a Mendip Hill NNR working group meeting, Somerset Wildlife Trust submitted three Mendip focused project idea on behalf of the partnership.

The three projects included:

- Mendip Grasslands and Hedgerows 'Mammals on the Move' (Dormouse, Hedgehog and Pine Marten).
- Rare Vascular plants of the Mendips: focussed on Cheddar and other sites in National Landscape.
- Understanding of Oil Beetles of Somerset.

We hope to have feedback on each and be invited for a full application in the next couple of weeks. Once received we will contact partners for development. We understand that there will be an eight-week period to undertake this application development work and submission.

7. AWT

8. Parish Council Representatives

9. Mendip Society

10. CPRE

Local planning cases we are involved with: We are involved in planning cases across the whole county, but cases near to the Mendip Hills are highlighted below:

- Replacement wind turbine, Wanstrow - Awaiting decision.
- 74 houses at Packsaddle Fields, Frome – appeal dismissed. The local community group have done outstanding efforts to protect these fields.
- Selwood Garden Village – proposal for 1700 houses, new roads, 2 care homes, roads, employment land & school on the edge of Frome. This massive proposal is not in the Local Plan. We spoke at the public inquiry in August. The Inspector should make a decision soon but the final decision lies with the Secretary of State.
- The Battery Energy Storage System at Styles Close, Frome was refused but recently accepted on appeal. Very worrying for local residents.

- We are working with Westbury-sub-Mendip Parish Council to challenge a proposal for 60 homes in the village, on the edge of the National Landscape.

Other

- CPRE's research revealed that there is enough land for 1.4 million homes across England – remarkably close to the Govt target of building 1.5 million homes this parliament. Here in Somerset there is enough room for over 6000 homes on brownfield land.
- CPRE continues to campaign against various aspects of the Planning & Infrastructure Bill as it ping-pongs its way through parliament. We have concerns about removal of local democracy in future planning and the sweeping aside of the need for surveys etc as Govt continues to refer to nature as a “blocker” to development.
- We announced the winners of our 2025 photo competition
- We ran our second “Countryside Day” event in September at Shapwick Moor Nature Reserve. Hawk & Owl Trust delivered a guided walk.
- We continue to offer grants to Parish Council in Somerset to help with restoration of historic cast iron signposts. Details here
- CPRE will be 100 years old in 2026. Nationally, CPRE will be marking the occasion with a garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show and a renewed forward-looking strategy. Here in Somerset, we will be celebrating by launching a new CPRE Somerset Awards scheme, by promoting our favourite countryside routes and having a public conversation about the “big idea” of the Somerset Levels becoming a National Park. The highlight will be a panel discussion event on 1 st October 2026 at Glastonbury Town Hall, hosted by our President, Mariella Frostrup.
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and BlueSky – search @cpresomerset
- Lots more info on www.cpresomerset.org.uk

11. The Trails Trust

The Trails Trust (TTT) currently represents multi-user access to the Mendip Hills NL partnership. TTT is now working as a member of MHNL Partnership access group along with partners from National Trust (NT), Council for Protection of Rural England (CPRE), Natural England (NE), Mendip Hills National Landscape Unit (MHNL) and stakeholders as needed / identified from landowners, farming tourism and other rural business, nature / biodiversity disability and highways consultants.

Actions to meet access provision objectives.

- List of contractors assembled able to undertake access & biodiversity works.
- Meet with specialists / stakeholders to establish any individual roles – ongoing.
- Attend Wells Eco Day October 18th with strategic plan / maps / questionnaire
- A38 Shute Shelf road improvements – campaign for a safe crossing point (at grade, bridge or underpass) required by all users of the various access routes (Mendip Way, strategic multi user linear route, Strawberry Line, local connections, nature connections).
- Respond to second Cheddar reservoir consultation to ensure multi user access and other access improvements are incorporated and to supply a map so these can be plotted.

The group has asked Bristol Water and partners to recognise that the proposed Cheddar 2 reservoir development is in an area where:

- a number of safe routes (rights of way, droves, lanes (Helliers / Hythe) and permissive paths) are strategically very important for walkers, equestrians, cyclists and disabled people.

- these safe routes variously avoid the dangerous and difficult barriers to sustainable travel, recreation and leisure posed by the nearby heavily trafficked roads (A371, A38, B3151).
- the strategic Mendip network plan includes a Somerset levels linear route connection to the Mendip Hills NL, plus improved connections between Axbridge and Cheddar.
- Access creation and improvement works include:

1) Creation of the aspirational strategic linear multi user green infrastructure

The strategic multi user access network has been adopted by the Partnership for delivery. To date the following trail (T) multi user routes have been delivered / improved through FiPL / Access for All funding.

- Priddy (Townsend) to Nordrach via Ubley Warren Farm (T103 / T77 / T79A)
- Priddy (Nordrach / Hazel Manor) to Compton Combe (Compton Martin) (T5) plus improvements along the Yeo Valley way for multi use.
- Priddy Green Lane and Lease Lane (Nordrach / Hazel Manor) to Blagdon (Two Trees). (T1 / T2)
- Priddy / Charterhouse (Warren Farm) (T79 B,C) new self-closing bridleway gates have been installed in 4 locations ensuring improved accessibility for all users and enhanced stock security.
- Chewton Mendip North Hill (T11/12) new self-closing bridleway gates have been installed in 5 locations ensuring improved accessibility for all users and enhanced stock security.
- Blagdon Luvers Lane (T3) to Burrington Ham, Blagdon from footpath to bridleway upgrade, so that users can avoid riding / (mountain) cycling along the B3134, is proceeding constructively.

2) Creating multi user connections to and through the Mendip (NNR)

- Central Plateau area connections work up a plan to discuss with landowners as 2026 project.

3) Improvements to agreed priority routes: LDR, open access land, community connections and local parish networks upgrade structures (miles without stiles)

- Blackdown, Burrington Ham. A plan has been produced with regard to replacement of gates and associated ground works and contractors have been asked to quote for this work.
- Middle Down Drove link diversion of Mendip Ring off B3135 blind bend through adjacent open access land: discuss with landowners for a project in 2026.

4) Biodiversity enhancements / user impact mitigation interventions

All access projects to include development requirements to protect / enhance biodiversity / nature where needed.

5) Provide advice and guidance to landowners / managers

The access group would like to see how the following can be publicised and promoted more widely to help land managers overcome barriers / issues and to improve the Mendip access network through adherence to:

- a) British Standard BS5709 – 2018 for gaps, gates and stiles
- b) The Countryside Code advice for land managers (including for access land).
- c) The Countryside code for visitors: logo and QR code can be applied to signage (ref Natural England).
- d) Project development to consider economic opportunities for land owners / managers from access projects.

6) Improve public engagement about farming / landscape / nature

a) Project development to include signage and way marking in conjunction with land owners / managers

b) Improve and correct waymarking on all access routes and open access areas

7) Improve the safety of identified highway crossing points within the access network.

- Eastern route / Monarch's Way highway specialist cost production of a plan to improve the B3135 Stockhill Red Quarr crossing: project for 2026.

2025 / 2026 Budget of £37,000 is being invested in

T3 Blagdon Luvers Lane to Burrington Ham works, signage and capital infrastructure incentive. Blackdown / Burrington Ham access improvements.

The MHNL access group would like to thank landowners / managers / tenants and anyone else associated with the Langford Court Estate, Milton Lodge, Small Brothers, Waldegrave Estate / Farms, Yeo Valley Farms and other stakeholders for their fantastic support and delivery of the above projects supporting access creation and improvement which benefit local people, visitors and land managers themselves.

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	27 November 2025	Paper A (including Appendices 1 and 2)
Title:	Draft MHNL Management Plan 2025 - 2030	
Presented by:	Ian Bowen	
Recommendation		
That:		
• the draft Management Plan including proposed track changes, as set out in Appendix 1, be endorsed by the Partnership; • That formal endorsement by Natural England be sought before being put forward for formal adoption by the constituent local planning authorities of Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and Somerset; • Authority be delegated to the MHNL Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to make any necessary minor typographical and factual corrections and updates (including to graphics and illustrations) as necessary.		

Purpose of the Report

To seek Partnership's formal endorsement of the draft Mendip Hills Management Plan.

Background

Partnership members will know that, under Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, each designated National Landscape is required to prepare a statutory management plan (MP). The MP is required to be reviewed at least every 5 years. The current Mendip Hills AONB MP covers the period 2019 – 2024 and will be superseded on adoption of emerging draft which is the subject of this report.

The MP is a particularly important document because it sets out the vision and strategy for conserving and enhancing the area's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. It is the key document for identifying the Special Qualities of the area and setting key targets. In doing so, it has a particularly important role in coordinating and integrating other relevant plans and strategies as they affect the National Landscape (NL), such as local plans and nature recovery plans.

In particular, the MP guides local authority policies and decision-making, as well as those of other “relevant authorities” such as government departments and statutory undertakers. This is important because the law was recently amended to introduce an enhanced statutory duty on all relevant authorities to actively ***seek to further*** the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.

The draft MP also includes a Climate Vulnerability Assessment which provides a context for the preparation of a Climate Adaptation Management Plan which we are required to complete by 2028 by the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

The Draft Mendip Hills Management Plan 2025 - 2030

The MP review was commenced in 2023, and members will be aware that several stages of rigorous informal public and stakeholder engagement have since taken place exploring issues and options around what the MP should contain.

In summary, these consisted of:

1. Consultation with the NL Partnership to assess existing objectives;
2. SWOT analysis workshops with the NL Partnership on the four themes of Place, Nature, Climate and People.
3. Wider public engagement to understand the priorities for the future of the Mendip Hills.

Important new evidence base documents have also informed the review, including a '***State of the AONB***' report, a ***Local Nature Recovery Plan***, and a ***State of Heritage*** report. In addition, **Strategic Environmental Assessment** and **Habitats Regulations Assessment** Screening Reports were commissioned and subject to their own consultation with the statutory bodies of Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England as appropriate. Having done so, we concluded that there are no likely significant (negative) environmental effects resulting from the new MP, including on any European sites.

We also prepared an **Equality Impact Assessment** which concluded that no negative outcomes are likely to impact on any protected groups.

All of the above documents are available to view on the Mendip Hills National Landscape website.

This work culminated in the preparation of a full draft Management Plan which, following Partnership's meeting in January, was published for a formal six week public consultation between **10 June** and **22 July 2025**.

The consultation draft Plan was publicised widely on social media, through established networks of groups and organisations as well as through targeted consultation with key stakeholders.

Results of the consultation on the Draft MP (Summer 2025)

Responses were received from 8 organisations and individuals. These are summarised in the table in **Appendix 2** attached, together with our proposed response and confirmation of whether a change to the draft Management Plan is necessary. (Individuals' names have been redacted) in the table.

Where changes are being recommended, these appear as track changes in the Draft Management Plan document set out in Appendix 1. A number of other track changes have additionally been made to the document for formatting, grammar, correction and improvement purposes.

Summary of Response

In general, there was support for the main thrust of the MP, with many suggestions for updating and correction of some of the content. Concern was raised to ensure that the right balance is struck between protecting the landscape, encouraging visitors and supporting farming and rural businesses.

The Somerset Wildlife Trust in particular made numerous representations, many of which are well founded and have been incorporated into the track change version of the MP set out at Appendix 1. Principally, these relate to the need to better reflect the challenges of climate change for biodiversity and soil health, and for the MP to more clearly recognise the need for partners to work together to ensure land management practices support nature recovery and environmental enhancement.

Next Steps

Following endorsement by the Partnership, we will notify Natural England of the fact and seek its formal endorsement of the document. At that stage, the draft Management Plan will be circulated to each of the local planning authorities with a request that the Plan be formally adopted.

Recommendation

That:

- **the draft Management Plan including proposed track changes, as set out in Appendix 1, be endorsed by the Partnership;**
- **That formal endorsement by Natural England be sought before being put forward for formal adoption by the constituent local planning authorities of Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and Somerset;**
- **Authority be delegated to the MHNL Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to make any necessary minor typographical and factual corrections and updates (including to graphics and illustrations) as necessary.**

Appendix 1



Mendip Hills National Landscape

**Mendip Hills National Landscape
(designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)**

**FINAL ~~CONSULTATION~~ DRAFT FOR
PARTNERSHIP APPROVAL**

Management Plan 2025-2030

(November 2025)

Since 22nd November 2023, all AONBs have been known as “National Landscapes”, However, relevant legislation continues to refer to “Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty” (AONB) and their statutory purpose remain unchanged. The terms National Landscape and AONB are therefore used interchangeably in this document.

About this Consultation Document

As part of caring for the Mendip Hills National Landscape, there is a statutory duty to prepare a Management Plan and review it at least every five years. The Management Plan describes the special qualities of the National Landscape; and provides a framework for cross-organisational work and management to support its protection, enhancement and enjoyment in line with an agreed vision.

Our existing Management Plan runs for the period 2019—2024. We commenced a review in 2023, and have had discussions with many residents, farmers, other businesses owners, elected councillors, parish councils, other stakeholders and visitors about what it should contain.

We have now prepared this draft Management Plan and are inviting your comments for a six week period commencing on 10th June 2025. The consultation document should be read alongside accompanying key evidence documents as set out in **Section 2.4** below.

Please send your comments on the draft Management Plan, by no later than Monday 22nd July 2025 to:

Mendip Hills National Landscape Team
Charterhouse Centre
Blagdon
BS40 7XR

Email: feedback@mendiphills-nl.org.uk

Further information is available from:
www.mendiphills-nl.org.uk/caring/management-plan/
Tel: 01761 462338

Please contact us if you require a paper copy of the draft Management Plan to be sent to you.

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DRAFT

Minister's Foreword by Mary Creagh CBE MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature

Protected Landscapes are our most iconic and inspiring places. They were created from 1949, with post-war Britain recognising everyone has a right to access the countryside – from Northumberland's dark skies to the South Downs' Seven Sisters. 75 years on, the needs are greater than ever, with nature underpinning our health, economy and climate. That's why this government will empower Protected Landscapes to become greener, wilder and more accessible.

Covering 25% of England, but half of our priority habitats, Protected Landscapes are essential to nature's recovery. This government understands that we will not achieve our Environment Act targets or commitment to protect 30% of nature by 2030 without Protected Landscapes.

Recovering this natural capital is essential to ensure sustainable economic growth. Protected Landscapes are fundamental to strengthening the nation's economic health by looking after the natural resources we depend on. Through nature's recovery, Protected Landscapes protect communities from flooding, fight climate change, enable sustainable food production and create green jobs. They also have a vital role in connecting diverse communities with nature - underpinning the nation's mental and physical health and reducing the strain on our NHS.

This incredible potential is beginning to be set out in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. However, it will only become reality through the work of Protected Landscapes teams in collaboration with local communities, land managers, public bodies and other partners.

Protected Landscape Management Plans provide the focal point for all partners to agree a local ambition and a pathway to deliver it, shaping the future of our most special places, and therefore the country. It is vital that all partners work together to develop and implement Management Plans. To support this collaboration, we have issued guidance on the Protected Landscapes duty which requires relevant authorities to seek to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes.

In recognising their importance to the nation, this government has committed to reinvigorating Protected Landscapes with new legislation, resources and tools. I look forward to developing this with you and other partners because it is only together that we can protect and enhance these remarkable places for generations to come.

Chairman's Foreword

To be inserted

1 What is a National Landscape?

- 1.1 This plan uses the term National Landscape (NL) for the designated area and National Landscape Partnership/Team for the organisation. It still refers to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) when referring to the use of the designation and legislative background.
- 1.2 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks were brought into being by the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, and have the same status, and level of protection. NLs are particularly special landscapes, whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.
- 1.3 The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries, and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development, that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty, and the needs of agriculture, forestry, and other uses.

Reference: Countryside Commission CCP356 (1991)

- 1.4 **'Natural beauty'** includes flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features. These aspects of natural beauty are key components of the landscape. However, landscape is also about visual and sensory tranquillity, the dark night skies, the relationship between people and place, the interaction between nature and culture. It is therefore very important that the cultural dimension of the landscape, including the historical, intellectual and spiritual elements as well as the physical human shaping of the land is fully recognised.
- 1.5 Further to this **the European Landscape Convention** (ratified by the UK Government in 2006) states 'as a reflection of European identity and diversity, the landscape is our living natural and cultural heritage, be it ordinary or outstanding, urban or rural, on land or in water.'
- 1.6 The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** designates the UK's NLs as Category V – Protected Landscape/seascape – 'a protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value'.

- 1.7 More information on NLs and their status and protection can be found on the following websites:
- Mendip Hills National Landscape (www.mendiphills-nl.org.uk)
 - Defra (www.defra.gov.uk) (~~www.defra.gov.uk~~)
 - Natural England (www.naturalengland.org.uk) (~~www.naturalengland.org.uk~~)
 - National Landscapes Association (www.national-landscapes.org.uk)

2 Who is the Management Plan for and how should it be used?

- 2.0.1 The Plan for this nationally designated, protected landscape is overarching of local authority administrative boundaries, and other plans and strategies. It identifies what is necessary to conserve, enhance and to further the purposes of this special landscape.¹ The Mendip Hills NL Management Plan is a 'material' consideration in determining planning applications, and at appeals.
- 2.0.2 Whilst set in the context of national and local policy, plans, and strategies, the NL Management Plan seeks to influence these as they evolve and are implemented, to ensure that they include policies to conserve, enhance and seek to further the purposes of the NL and support the aims of the Management Plan.
- 2.0.3 The Plan is one for the place, not just the Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership, and plays a crucial part in obtaining commitment from public bodies in particular. The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 confirmed the significance of AONBs and Section 85 places a statutory legal duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function in relation to, or affecting, land within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 brought amendment of section 85 (A1) into statute on 26 December 2023, whereby; Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is amended as follows (emphasis added):
- 2.0.4 *A1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England, a relevant authority other than a devolved Welsh authority must **seek to further** the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.*
- 2.0.5 The CROW Act 2000 requires relevant local authorities to produce and adopt a plan which 'formulates policy for the management of the area, and for carrying out their functions in relation to it.' as follows:
- 2.0.6 '90A Duty of public bodies etc in relation to management plans
- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision—
- (a) requiring a relevant authority other than a devolved Welsh authority to contribute to the preparation, implementation or review of plans under section 89 relating to an area of outstanding natural beauty in England;
- (b) setting out how such a relevant authority may or must do so.'

¹ Paragraph 24 of the NPPF (2024) sets out that 'Local planning authorities and county councils are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries'.

- 2.0.7 Government Planning [Practice](#) Guidance explains that management plans provide evidence of the value and special qualities of National Landscapes and provide a basis for cross-organisational work to support the purposes of their designation and show how management activities contribute to their protection, enhancement and enjoyment. [The thirteen Special Qualities are set out in section 5 below.](#)
- 2.0.8 The NL Partnership, the advisory body for the Mendip Hills NL, produces the Management Plan, on behalf of its local authority partners: Somerset Council, Bath and North-East Somerset Council and North Somerset Council. As such, this Plan sets out the particular special qualities of the Mendip Hills NL in a Statement of Significance. It has considered current issues and future trends to devise objectives which address these in order to conserve, enhance and restore the special qualities in achieving the Vision for the Mendip Hills NL.
- 2.0.9 ~~The Plan is one for the place and all the relevant organisations active within it, not merely the Mendip Hills NL Partnership.~~ Through engagement with the local authorities and other stakeholders, the NL Partnership seeks to deliver this Plan through a coordinated annual Delivery Plan of actions, assisted and managed by the NL Team. Implementation of the Management Plan involves positive conservation measures as well as enforcement by relevant agencies where necessary against activities which are harmful to the area's special qualities such as unauthorised development and rural crime. The Plan's focus is with the designated area but what happens in the countryside adjacent to the boundary, or within view of the NL is also of significance.
- 2.0.10 This review of the 2019-2024 Management Plan was undertaken in accordance with the Guidance on the review of NL Management Plans, Countryside Agency (2006). A screening process to determine whether Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening (SEA) and/or a Habitat Regulation Assessment is required in accordance with the European Habitats Directive; and an Equalities Impact Assessment have been undertaken [prior to the plan's adoption].

2.1 Relevant authorities

- 2.1.1 In exercising their statutory duties, 'relevant authorities' include all public bodies (county, borough, district, parish and community councils, joint planning boards and other statutory committees); statutory undertakers (such as energy and water utilities, licensed telecommunications companies, nationalised companies such as Network Rail and other bodies established under statute responsible for railways, roads and canals); government ministers and civil servants.
- 2.1.2 Activities and developments outside the boundaries of AONBs that have an impact within the designated area are also covered by the duty.

2.2 Local authority's functions and the Plan

2.2.1 The Management Plan is relevant to any local authority function that may have an influence upon the natural beauty of the NL including:

- Planning and development, including neighbourhood planning
- Scheduled monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas
- Building regulations and energy efficiency
- Waste, environment protection, pesticides and pollution
- Libraries and museums
- Animal health and welfare, biodiversity, flooding and marine areas
- Rights of way and coastal access
- Food and food safety
- Public health, mental health, social care and young people
- Highways, traffic management, public transport and parking
- Education

A full list can be found at Statutory duties placed on local government – data.gov.uk

2.2.2 The Plan is also relevant for:

Landowners, land managers and developers: Those who own and manage land in the National Landscape have a vital role to play. The plan aims to guide, support and attract resources for sensitive management of the National Landscape.

Local communities, businesses and visitors: Everyone who lives, works or visits the Mendip Hills can play an active role in caring for the National Landscape; the plan identifies some of the priorities for action and ways to become involved.

Others such as funding bodies, third sector, and voluntary groups and organisations may refer to the plan or use it to gain a greater understanding of the issues affecting the area.

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 National planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024. The NPPF applies as a whole to NLs as it does to non-designated areas and sets out that planning policies and decisions should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. However, two paragraphs refer specifically to National Landscapes: paragraphs 189 and 190, see below.
- 2.3.2 The NPPF and the accompanying Planning Practice Guidance form important material considerations with regard to development management and plan-making and confirm that:
- The scale and extent of development in National Landscapes should be limited.
 - Where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining a planning application are out of date, the NPPF introduces a presumption that planning permission should be granted, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits. (This is often referred to as the “tilted balance”). However, the tilted balance may often be disapplied in respect of planning affecting the Mendip Hills National Landscape. That is because the NPPF makes clear the tilted balance is not triggered in cases where the application of its policies that “*protect areas or assets of particular importance*” (including National Landscapes) provides a strong reason for refusing the development proposed.
 - There is a presumption that planning permission should be refused for major development in National Landscapes other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.
 - Policies for protecting National Landscapes may mean that it is not possible to meet objectively assessed needs for housing and other development in full (where the application of policies in the Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area).
 - National Landscapes are unlikely to be suitable areas for accommodating unmet needs arising from adjoining, non-designated, areas.
- 2.3.3 Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states: ‘Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.’

- 2.3.4 Paragraph 190 of the NPPF states: 'When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and AONBs, permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of: a. the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy; b. the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and c. any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreation opportunities and the extent to which they can be moderated.'
- 2.3.5 Major development as referred to in paragraph 190 of the NPPF is not defined, but Footnote 67 of the NPPF explains: 'For the purposes of paragraphs 190 and 191, whether a proposal is 'major development' is a matter for the decision maker, taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated or defined.'

2.4 How was the ~~draft~~ Management Plan prepared?

- 2.4.1 This draft Management Plan has been informed by a considerable amount of background evidence, consultation and engagement. This is summarised below, together with an outline of next steps.
- 2.4.2 In 2022, we commissioned a 'State of the AONB' report to provide a snapshot of the condition of the area and its special qualities. The report gathers together a wide range of data structured around the themes of 'Nature, Climate, People and Place' which have been developed by Government as a framework to guide consistent outcomes for all protected landscapes in England. The report has been instrumental in providing a context for the engagement we have carried out to date. It has also shaped the format and structure of the draft Management Plan. The report is available to view on our website alongside this consultation document.
- 2.4.3 In autumn 2023, the various partner organisations which make up the Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership carried out a SWOT analysis of the current Management Plan focusing particularly on the special qualities.
- 2.4.4 This was followed up with targeted consultation involving a review questionnaire of the current Management Plan. In March 2024, the Partnership explored the emerging themes at an ideas and issues session, before inviting comments from residents, farmers, other businesses owners, elected councillors, parish councils, stakeholders and visitors about the priorities which they thought were important to help shape the future of the area.
- 2.4.5 A summary of the outcome of that consultation is set out in a report prepared by a specialist organisation called 'Distinctive' who helped us carry out effective public consultation. That report is also available to view on our website.
- 2.4.6 ~~We are now inviting your view on the formal draft of the new Management Plan. Details of how to respond are set out at the beginning of this document and on our website.~~

2.4.7 Along with the “*State of the AONB*” and ‘*Distinctive*’ reports, we commissioned independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) “screening” reports from Lepus. The SEA report concluded that there are no likely significant (negative) environmental effects associated with any part of the Management Plan. Similarly, the HRA report concluded that there are not expected to be any likely significant environmental effects on any designated European sites. We consulted Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body on the HRA report, who confirmed their view that further screening is not required. We also consulted Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England on the SEA report, and again no representations were received which indicated that further assessment is needed. We have therefore determined that neither a full environmental assessment, nor a full Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Management Plan are necessary.

2.4.8 We ~~have~~ also prepared a draft Equalities Impact Assessment as part of the Plan and concluded that no negative outcomes are likely to impact on protected groups. The draft EqIA is available to view on the website.

Next Steps

2.4.9 ~~Formal public consultation on a draft Management Plan took place for a 6 week period between 10 June – 22 July 2025 in response to which a number of amendments were made by the NL Partnership. Further consultation took place with Natural England in XXX 2025/26 before the Plan was formally adopted by each of the three constituent local planning authorities in XXX 2026. Following this public consultation, we will carefully assess all the representations we receive. We will then consider what, if any, changes are needed to the be made to the draft Management Plan in response and prepare a Report of Consultation summarising all the comments and detailing our response to them.~~

2.4.10 ~~The MHNL Partnership will then meet (in autumn 2025) to formally consider the Report of Consultation and decide whether to endorse the Management Plan, and to recommend to each of the constituent local authorities that it be formally adopted. We will then notify the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that the Management Plan 2025–2030 has been formally adopted.~~

3 Drivers of Change

- 3.1 The Mendip Hills NL Management Plan needs to take account of the wider environment in which it operates, see Appendix 3 for additional information on drivers of change.
- 3.2 **Changes in farming and the rural economy**
Leaving the European Union has precipitated change in many aspects of agriculture, environmental law and regulations. Protecting the landscape character of the Mendip Hills NL within the ever-changing pressures on farming and the rural economy is a challenge. However, new farm payment schemes provide opportunities to improve conservation, access, and encourage public understanding. Decisions about Environmental Land Management schemes should be linked to the statutory NL Management Plan so far as possible. The NL Management Plan should be linked to decisions around Environmental Land Management schemes. The 2018 Agriculture Bill and the Environment Act 2023 will further shape delivery of the NL Management Plan. More widely, there will continue to be strong drivers of change in farming resulting from a wide range of factors. These include, amongst others, an ageing farming population, pressures to diversify to supplement income, competition for farmland including a gradual shift towards fewer, larger farms, labour shortages and increasing digitisation and precision in agriculture.
- 3.3 **Development**
Growth of the settlements in the setting of, and adjacent to the North Somerset boundary at Bleadon, Churchill, Sandford and Winscombe could impact on the special qualities of the NL, in particular dark night skies and tranquillity. The bypass at Banwell will enable development to the north of the NL boundary. Axbridge, Cheddar and Wells on the southern boundary, are facing significant development pressure. Increased traffic levels, and visitor numbers could also have a serious impact within the NL. Development of onshore wind and solar energy is likely to increase during the life of the plan.
- 3.4 **Population Increase**
Of the 28 parishes wholly, or partly in the NL, 17 had a population increase between the 2001 and 2011 census.² Local increases are also mirrored by national growth in population. Public benefit through enjoyment of the hills is a significant objective of this Plan. Carefully managed and well-maintained public access to attractive countryside, particularly walking, cycling, and rock sports brings physical and mental health benefits, enabling people to enjoy a beautiful landscape, connect with nature, and provide support to the local economy. Inappropriate levels, or types of activity can however impact on the natural capital, particularly landscape beauty, tranquillity, and biodiversity, of the NL reducing others' ability to enjoy, and benefit from the area.

² State of the Mendip Hills AONB Report 2022

3.5 Administration

Since the last Management Plan there have been substantial developments relating to the governance arrangements in Somerset with the incorporation of Mendip and Sedgemoor District Councils into the new Somerset Council in 2022. The three local authorities involved in the partnership all face financial difficulties with Somerset Council declaring a financial emergency. These challenges all impact on the NL. Through engagement with the various committees, and through elected members, the NL Partnership aims to keep issues that affect the area on the agenda of these bodies, and to ensure adequate, and suitable funding streams, and services can be accessed across the NL area.

3.6 Climate Change

3.6.1 There is broad scientific consensus that the global climate is changing. However, the precise nature of these changes, and the consequent impacts on the special features of the NL is complex and uncertain. ~~Due to~~ The likely effects of climate change will mean the Mendip Hills are likely to get warmer; summers will continue to get hotter and drier, and winters will continue to get milder and wetter, with inevitable exceptions.

3.6.2 These patterns will have profound consequences for habitats and the species they support. Habitat fragmentation is a particular risk, making it harder for species to migrate or adapt and changes are inevitable as warm and cold-adapted flora and fauna emerge and disappear. Disruptions to ecological relationships through mismatches in the timing of flowering v pollinator activity can also be expected. In the Mendip Hills National Landscape, particular champion species identified in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which are sensitive to climate change include greater horseshoe bat (through changes in insect availability and roosting conditions), Cheddar pink (vulnerability to habitat fragmentation), adder (threatened by habitat loss and disturbance) and water vole (at risk from altered water regimes and predation).

3.6.23 Climate change ~~It~~ is likely ~~there will increasingly be longer dry periods followed by sudden-to result in~~ periods of heavy rain ~~that may cause~~ causing more frequent flood events from surface runoff, increased flooding of settlements at the foot of the hills, rock fall, soil erosion, nutrient leaching and associated impacts on water quality. Increased carbon dioxide, and a longer growing season could potentially lead to double cropping with impacts on soil condition due to increased cultivation. This may lead to different crops suited to a warmer climate. Increasing occurrences of droughts ~~would be likely to~~ lead to increases in water demand for crop growth, business, and domestic use, and drying out, and erosion of soils. This has profound implications for soil health as degraded soils reduce their ability to store water, filter nutrients and pollutants and sustain diverse microbial ecosystems. Similarly, drying and decomposition of peatlands releases greenhouse gases and increases fire risks, exacerbating the causes of climate change.

- 3.6.34 Increased storminess, drought, and prevalence of pest and diseases (including non-native invasive species and pathogens) may also result in damage or loss of ancient woodlands and mature, ancient, and veteran trees. Ash dieback in particular has already had a significant impact on woodland habitats, species, landscape character and shading. Changes to seasonal temperature and rainfall could begin to change tree productivity. Tree provenance of native species will become more important. Species migration, and loss of small, or isolated habitats, and populations are likely. Composition and productivity of habitats will change and require management.
- 3.6.45 Climate change poses threats to the historic environment through damage/loss to structures and remains attributable to intense rainfall, ground instability associated with more extreme soaking and drying and changes in vegetation patterns. ~~Intense rainfall causes erosion of archaeological sites, and increased extremes of soaking and drying heighten risk of ground subsidence and accelerate the decay of stonework. Changes in vegetation patterns may cover and damage archaeological remains, and leave others exposed and desiccated.~~
- 3.6.56 Mitigating climate change through development of renewable energy and new build is likely to present challenges to conserving and enhancing landscape character. Whilst every building should strive to reduce its carbon footprint, mitigation should not be at the expense of the surrounding landscape, and traditional buildings. The embodied energy contained within historic buildings should also be acknowledged in any energy efficient proposals.
- 3.6.67 Please see the Climate Vulnerability Assessment in section 7.5

4 Benefits of the Mendip Hills National Landscape

4.0.1 25 Year Environment Plan - A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment DEFRA (January 2018)

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out a long-term approach to protecting and enhancing a variety of natural landscapes and habitats, with goals of cleaner air and water, plants and animals which are thriving, and a cleaner, greener environment. The first line outlines the vision, "It is this Government's ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it".

4.0.2 The 25 Year Environment Plan includes, on page 65, that 'Some of England's most beautiful landscapes and geodiversity are protected via a range of designations including National Parks and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)... Over the next 25 years we want to make sure they are not only conserved but enhanced'.

4.0.3 The Plan further sets out, on page 56 and 57, that 'In England, a quarter of our landscape is designated in this way, around 10% as National Parks and 15% as AONBs. We will make sure they continue to be conserved and enhanced, while recognising that they are living landscapes that support rural communities... While development is not prohibited in National Parks or AONBs, major development should take place only in exceptional circumstances'.

4.0.4 A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. The Mendip Hills NL has a wealth of natural capital and the benefits we get from the NL's attributes and processes (both natural and cultural features) are often described as 'ecosystem services'.

4.0.5 Taking account of all the economic and non-economic benefits society gets from ecosystem services enables decision makers to exercise judgement about the use of the environment. Such an approach is often called an 'ecosystems approach'. In all considerations, it is important that decisions value the natural capital and ecosystem services of the Mendip Hills NL to the economy.

4.0.6 Section 4.1 gives examples of the Mendip Hills NL Ecosystem Services. Many of these provide services at a national, regional and local level. Services of national importance reflect the special qualities of the nationally protected landscape. The natural capital and ecosystem services provided by the Mendip Hills NL are supported through objectives in this Plan.

4.1 Mendip Hills NL Ecosystem Services

4.1.1 Provisioning services

4.1.1.1 Water supply

The entire area lies over an important Carboniferous Limestone aquifer which is designated as a Major Aquifer Unit, making a major contribution to public water supply, and supplying Bristol, and the surrounding area via Cheddar, Blagdon, and Chew Valley reservoirs. The Mendip aquifer also supplies the hot springs in Bath.

4.1.1.2 Food

Cheddar has a long tradition of, and is internationally associated with, cheese production. Dairying is prevalent on the plateau, including national food producers. Cider apples are grown commercially in the Wrington Vale, and in community orchards on the northern edge of the NL.

4.1.1.3 Timber

Foresters in the NL produce timber in extensive plantations, smaller-scale timber harvests come from farm woodlands.

4.1.1.4 Fuel

Woodlands, including small farm woodlands, provide fuel.

4.1.1.5 Genetic diversity

Local livestock breeds help maintain genetic diversity.

4.1.2 Regulating services

4.1.2.1 Water flow and flood risk

Most of the NL is within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone due to its contribution to public water supply. Groundwater quality is generally good. The ecological quality of the emergent rivers is largely moderate. Parts of the Mendip Hills fall within the ~~Bristol Avon-Gongresbury-Yeo~~ catchment for Catchment Sensitive Farming Scheme purposes, part of the North Somerset Moors-Catchment Sensitive Farming Priority Catchment.

4.1.2.2 Disease and pest regulation

Healthy and diverse ecosystems are less vulnerable to pests and disease and can help regulate them.

4.1.2.3 Pollination

Pollination of crops is important for food supply – healthy ecosystems such as lowland heath and ~~flower meadows~~ species rich grassland, support this service.

4.1.2.4 **Climate regulation and carbon storage**

The commercial forestry plantations and wooded combes, plus the heathland store large amounts of carbon in the shallow peat, with deeper peat in smaller areas. Healthy soils and nature rich habitats are also valuable for carbon storage.

4.1.3 **Cultural Services**

4.1.3.1 **Cultural heritage and historic environment**

The history of the landscape is evident ranging from prehistoric settlement and activity to World War 2 archaeology. The prehistoric henges of Gorsey Bigbury and Priddy Circles, form in combination with over 300 Bronze Age barrows, a ritual landscape of national significance. Large hill forts from the Iron Age, such as Dolebury, and smaller sites such as Banwell, are evidence of a complex pattern of territories and lordship. Quarries and pitted landscapes are evidence of lead mining and other extraction activity, some of which continues today. Field patterns reflect the various histories of enclosure and settlement.

4.1.3.2 **Spiritual values**

The NL's landscapes and tranquillity provide spiritual inspiration and enrichment from nature for many people.

4.1.3.3 **Aesthetic values**

Due to the height contrast between the surrounding levels, the NL is renowned for the views it provides.

4.1.3.4 **Sense of place**

The distinctive landform provides residents and visitors with a sense of place, and cultural heritage.

4.1.3.5 **Education**

The Mendip Hills have a long tradition of providing outdoor adventure and education activities, formally at locations like Charterhouse Centre, visiting groups and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

4.1.3.6 **Recreation and tourism**

The Mendip Hills are accessible to the large populations of Bristol, Bath, Weston-super-Mare, and the smaller surrounding settlements. Access to the landscape is fundamental to promoting healthier lifestyles. Tourism is important to the local economy, Wookey Hole and Cheddar Gorge draw in large numbers of visitors. Examples of popular activities include walking, cycling, equestrian activities, rock-sports and wildlife watching.

4.1.4 Supporting Services

4.1.4.1 Wildlife / biodiversity

Mendip still has representation of many rare and threatened species and acts as a stronghold for some. There are 27 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering 2721 ha, 3 Special Area of Conservation (SAC), 1 Special Protection Area (SPA), and 2 National Nature Reserves within the Mendip Hills NL. Ash woodland and calcareous grasslands are internationally designated, and also sites for greater horseshoe bats.

4.1.4.2 Soil

Lowland calcareous grassland is strongly influenced by the alkaline soils found throughout the Mendip Hills AONB resulting from the limestone geology of the area. They hold proportionally less carbon but are valuable for the fauna and flora they support. Deeper, more neutral soils cover the plateau and north facing slopes containing more carbon and allowing different assemblages of flora and fauna. All soils store, filter and transform nutrients and water.

4.1.4.3 Nutrient cycling

Plants, animals, and micro-organisms play a crucial role in the cycling of nutrients essential for the delivery of ecosystem benefits.

5 Natural beauty

5.1 Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)

- 5.1.1 Natural England has produced National Character Areas profile documents for each of the 159 NCAs in England. NCA 141 Mendip Hills covers most of the NL except for the Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes which are covered by NCA 118 Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges.
- 5.1.2 The NCA profile for the Mendip Hills (141) highlights that the area is 'renowned for its tranquillity and inspirational qualities ...' and recognises that 'Light pollution from development threatens the extent of the recognised dark skies and out-of-character development is a continuing risk to the essential nature of the area.' Within the NCA Statement of Environmental Opportunity under SEO1 it states 'Safeguard inward and outward views and to the distinctive hill line and conserve and enhance the special qualities, tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness of the area'.
- 5.1.3 The NCA profile for Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges (NCA 118) states that to the south of Bristol, the land falls to the Yeo and Chew valleys, where Chew and Blagdon lakes are prominent features near the foot of the Mendip scarp. These lakes are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive.

5.2 Statement of Significance – The Special Qualities of the Mendip Hills NL

5.2 Rising from the Somerset Levels are the distinctive Mendip Hills, that, with the Chew Valley and Blagdon lakes, form the 198sq kms that is the Mendip Hills NL. The special qualities that together create the Mendip Hills NL sense of place and identity are listed below. Particular combinations of these special qualities, originally identified in the Mendip Hills AONB Landscape Assessment (1998) and more recently set out in the Nature Recovery Plan, form 11 distinctive landscape local areas based on the character of the landscape. It is also important to note that habitats, species and biodiversity are also essential components of the natural beauty of the Mendip Hills, with a mosaic of habitats in close proximity to one another, and are to varying degrees intrinsic to each of the Special Qualities listed below.

- 5.2.1 • The dark skies, tranquillity³, sense of remoteness, and naturalness of the area.
- 5.2.2 • The distinctive limestone ridges and scarp slopes, rising from the Somerset Levels and Moors, and windswept plateau punctuated by spectacular dry valleys and gorges, ancient sinkholes and depressions, and impressive rocky outcrops.
- 5.2.3 • Views towards the Mendip Hills and the distinctive hill line. The views out, and panoramas, including across the Severn Estuary to Wales, the Somerset Levels and Moors, and the Somerset Coast.
- 5.2.4 • A sparsely populated plateau, with settlements of Mendip stone largely confined to the spring line.
- 5.2.5 • The diverse and visible geology that ranges from Devonian to Jurassic in a relatively small area, making it one of the best areas in the country to appreciate the relationships between geology, landscape, and natural history, including the iconic Cheddar Gorge.
- 5.2.6 • Caves, for their wildlife, geological, archaeological importance, including Aveline's Hole the oldest cemetery site in Britain, and Goughs Cave one of the most important Palaeolithic sites in Europe that provides a breeding site for Lesser and Greater Horseshoe bats
- 5.2.7 • The limestone aquifer supplying water to the reservoirs of Cheddar, Chew Valley, and Blagdon lakes, and providing habitats of local and international importance for birds with Chew Valley Lake designated a Special Protection Area for bird species.
- 5.2.8 • The Chew Valley and the Yeo Valley - a farmed landscape with distinctive hedgerow patterns and hedgerow trees, providing interconnected semi-natural habitats.
- 5.2.9 • Dry stone walls that criss-cross the plateau farmlands grazed by sheep, beef and dairy cattle, are a key feature of the karst landscape and provide a unique habitat for wildlife corridors.

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³ Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) (LI and IEMA 2013) define tranquillity as 'a state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of landscape'. Information on tranquillity can also be found in the Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 01/2017.

- 5-2-10 • Steep south-facing slopes of flower rich, limestone grasslands, including the Mendip Limestone Grasslands Special Area of Conservation, and the area known as the Strawberry Belt of horticultural activity producing soft fruits.
- 5-2-11 • Ancient woodland and wooded combes on the north and south slopes offering varied habitats of national, and international importance for a wide diversity of wildlife, including dormouse and bats.
- 5-2-12 • A landscape tracing human settlement dating back 500,000 years. Henge monuments, barrows, and hillforts through to World War 2 sites are prominent features on the plateau, as are remnants of Roman and Victorian lead mining.
- 5-2-13 • A landscape enabling people to experience the special qualities of the Mendip Hills NL through a wide range of interests and outdoor pursuits and activities.

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6 The Vision

The Mendip Hills National Landscape offers a wealth of opportunities for all people and wildlife to benefit from the nationally protected landscape both within and beyond its boundaries. The living landscape conserves and enhances natural beauty, supporting the economy, health and wellbeing of our society.

Our Vision for the Mendip Hills NL in 15 years

The vision, outlined in this Management Plan represents the ambition for the state of the NL in 15 years. The vision will be implemented through the four themes of Place, Nature, Climate and People.

Although there are objectives for each theme, the Plan should be taken in its entirety and the relationships between themes and ecosystem services recognised. The themes and their objectives are not in any order of priority. For ease of reference, the 'Vision' for each theme (set out immediately below) is reproduced in each of the respective themed sections in paragraphs 6.1 onwards.

6.0.1 PLACE – landscape quality, historic environment and cultural heritage

The vision for Place is one where a wide understanding and appreciation of the Mendip Hills as a protected area of distinct character, created over time by the interaction of people and nature. Its the ecological, biological, cultural, and scenic value of the National Landscape continues to be conserved and enhanced, reflecting its creation over time by the interaction of people and nature. Collaborative partnerships will be working ever closer together with a shared understanding of the purposes of the National Landscape.

Enhanced understanding of the National Landscape's historic environment and cultural heritage, with appropriate management in place, ~~to~~ will ensure all sites, structures, and landscapes are conserved and enhanced, and local communities, and visitors enjoy a rich experience of sense of place.

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6.0.2 **NATURE – biodiversity, geodiversity and natural resources**

The vision for Nature ~~will be~~ is to secure resilient and coherent ecological networks, ~~both within and beyond the NL boundaries. This will result in place-~~ ~~providing more,~~ bigger, better, and more joined up habitats, ~~with and~~ the restoration of characteristic species. The creation of the Mendip National Nature Reserve in October 2023 contributes towards this coherency throughout the Mendip landscape. The area's diverse geology will be understood and managed for its importance, both in terms of the biodiversity, and ecosystem services that benefit wildlife, people and business.

~~Integrated land use management that will restore and continue to enhance the area's natural capital including soils, food, and water supply.~~

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6.0.3 CLIMATE - Land management and development

The vision for Climate, ~~the National Landscape is important for~~ is to secure the mitigation of the causes and effects of climate change ~~and~~ through appropriate land management ~~it has the capacity to adapt to climate change~~. As the main land use, agriculture ~~continues to will~~ contribute to enhancing landscape character, ecological networks, and the provision of benefits such as clean water. Native woodland will be managed for wildlife, climate change mitigation and recreation, as well as fuel. Integrated and sustainable land use management will restore and enhance the area's natural capital including soils, food, and water supply. As part of this, a shift away from intensive agriculture towards sustainable long term management practices will be important, with support of government, funding, communities and consumers.

Development in, or near to the Mendip Hills NL will be truly sustainable contributing to the Government's climate change targets/ net zero targets as well as for social, and economic needs of the area. Development will enhance, and respects the special qualities of the area, including visual and sensory tranquillity.

6.0.4 PEOPLE – Participation, recreation, access and tourism

The vision for People is improving participation, increasing awareness and understanding, particularly for those in harder to reach communities in our cities and towns.

Provision for enjoyment by a diverse population, from both within and beyond the NL boundary, will be enabled through a wide range of active, and quiet pursuits that the area can sustain. The area will be accessible, regardless of individual mobility, disability, financial situation or background, including to historically under-represented groups.

~~To provide for the enjoyment of a diverse population, from both within and beyond the NL boundary, through a wide range of active, and quiet pursuits that the area can sustain. The area will be accessible, regardless of individual mobility, wealth or background.~~

Significant numbers of the local community will be accessing training and learning in the conservation and enhancement of the Mendip Hills National Landscape. This will be either through direct employment in the rural economy, as custodians of the landscape, influencing decision makers or volunteering. This will be supported by increased understanding of nature, the landscape, the need for change and the difference we can each make. In visibly acting for nature, climate and landscape, people will encourage and enable others to do the same.
~~To ensure significant numbers of the local community are involved in the conservation and enhancement of the Mendip Hills NL through accessing training, learning, volunteering, employment in the rural economy or as custodians of the landscape and able to influence decision makers.~~

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6.1 Place Theme

6.1.1 Vision

Vision for Place – landscape quality, historic environment and cultural heritage

- 6.1.1.1 The vision for Place is one where the ecological, biological, cultural, and scenic value of the National Landscape continues to be conserved and enhanced reflecting its creation over time by the interaction of people and nature. Collaborative partnerships will be working ever closer together with a shared understanding of the purposes of the National Landscape.

~~The vision for Place is a wide understanding and appreciation of the Mendip Hills as a protected area of distinct character, created over time by the interaction of people and nature. Its ecological, biological, cultural, and scenic value conserved and enhanced. Collaborative partnerships working together with a shared understanding of the purposes of the National Landscape.~~

- 6.1.1.2 Enhanced understanding of the National Landscape's historic environment and cultural heritage, with appropriate management in place, will ensure all sites, structures, and landscapes are conserved and enhanced, and local communities, and visitors enjoy a rich experience of sense of place. ~~Enhanced understanding of the National Landscape's historic environment and cultural heritage, with appropriate management in place to ensure all sites, structures, and landscapes are conserved and enhanced, and local communities, and visitors enjoy a rich experience of sense of place.~~

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Landscape Activities

Landscape Overview

- 6.1.1.3 The carboniferous limestone that underlies much of the Mendip ridge has given the area its distinctive landscape of rolling hills, gorges, lines of dry-stone walls, and attractive stone, settlements on the spring line. The area has a tangible sense of tranquillity and remoteness that are highly valued by those who choose to live here and the many visitors. At the highest points, such as Black Down areas of sandstone covered by heathland contrast with the limestone grassland and give variety to the landscape. Views out from the edge of the plateau and slopes are widely appreciated by all.
- 6.1.1.4 The gentler landscape of Chew Valley adds a further dimension. The two reservoirs of Blagdon Lake (built 1899) and Chew Valley Lake (built 1956), provide large expanses of water, set within a rich farmland landscape. The landscape has been strongly influenced by the activities of man from prehistoric times to the present. The plateau is rich in the remains of Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman activity, including lead mining, and dry stone walls mostly dating from the 18th and 19th century. Both farming and quarrying continue to change the landscape.

- 6.1.1.5 The Mendip Hills AONB Landscape Assessment (Countryside Commission 1998) identified 11 distinctive character areas. Consideration of the landscape needs to take account of the 'special qualities' of these character areas.
- 6.1.1.6 In addition to this Natural England National Character Area profiles that cover the NL 141 Mendip Hills and 118 Bristol, Avon Valley and Ridges, need to be considered. Each profile includes a description of the natural and cultural features that shape these landscapes, current drivers of change, and as working documents they draw on current evidence and knowledge of these landscapes.

Heritage Overview

- 6.1.1.7 AONB National Landscape designation recognises the importance of heritage and reinforces the need to protect and manage characteristic features. The historical value of the area is incredibly rich and important. The Mendip Hills have evidence of human settlement dating back to Palaeolithic times, 500,000 years ago. Henge monuments, barrows, and hill forts on the plateau are some of the most prominent features of the area. 198 Listed Buildings and 173 Scheduled Monuments and 4844 entries are listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER). Interest and participation in this subject is high, leading to previously unrecorded sites and features being recorded. Often, such heritage assets are designated for more than one purpose which contribute to the special qualities of the National Landscape. For example, a Scheduled Monument may also be a listed building or lie within a Site of Special Scientific Interest. In such cases, the effects of development, land management or other actions will need to carefully consider the purposes of each of the designations.
- 6.1.1.8 Customs and traditions that have historic and cultural associations with the land, and activities of local people, are important too. This includes Mendip cave exploration begun in the late nineteenth century, the Rock of Ages service which marks the origin of the famous hymn, the hedging and ploughing matches promoting rural skills. There are very few weekends when there is not an event happening in the Mendip Hills that is not custom, or tradition related demonstrating community engagement with their heritage.

- 6.1.1.9 A State of Heritage report was commissioned by the NL Team from the South West Heritage Trust in 2024. ~~Alongside collating the current known information about the historic landscape, the report also identifies where research would help. In collating the current known information about the historic landscape, This review the report has demonstrated demonstrates~~ that each period of human activity in the MHNL is represented by sites of both regional and national significance (evidenced by Scheduled Monuments), and in some cases European importance. Significantly, the NL area is a microcosm of activity, which is intrinsically associated with regional, national and European movements and developments. The main conclusions of the Report identify concerns around limitations in the knowledge base, statutory protection, monitoring and public appreciation of the heritage of Mendip. As a result, a number of broad actions are recommended around 'research & community engagement', 'management and protection' and 'interpretation and wellbeing'.

6.1.2 Benefits and Opportunities

Landscape

- 6.1.2.1 The Mendip Hills NL provides a wide range of benefits to society. Each is derived from the attributes and processes (both natural and cultural features) within the area. These benefits are known collectively as 'ecosystem services'. The predominant services are summarised below. Further information on ecosystem services provided in the Mendip Hills NL is contained in section 4.1.
- 6.1.2.2 **Provisioning services:**
- Food provision
 - Water availability
- 6.1.2.3 **Regulating services:**
- Regulating soil erosion
 - Regulating water quality
- 6.1.2.4 **Cultural services:**
- Sense of place & inspiration
 - Sense of history
 - Education
 - Recreation
 - Geodiversity
- 6.1.2.5 **Supporting services;**
- Biodiversity
 - Soil
 - Nutrient cycling

Heritage

- 6.1.2.6 Unless we have a strong understanding of the historic sites, features and landscape for the area we cannot hope to enhance it adequately. Raising awareness of the heritage importance of the Mendip Hills NL through all sections of society is important and should lead to greater protection.
- 6.1.2.7 Interpretation, engagement events and citizen science heritage-based projects have the potential to help local communities to understand, enjoy and connect with the NL's rich and varied heritage resource. Studies have also shown that these types of projects support cultural capacity and have proven health and wellbeing benefits.

6.1.3 Issues, Impacts and Barriers to Delivery

Landscape Issues

- 6.1.3.1 ~~There are many~~ Many factors bring pressure ~~on and for~~ change the Mendip Hills National Landscape. ~~Many of these are overarching issues which are also relevant to other themes and, most are covered under other themes in this plan, these~~ include:
- development
 - land use and agriculture practices
 - habitat decline
 - increase in road traffic
 - recreational demand
 - dark sky loss
 - landscape detail loss. Examples of loss include gruffy ground (remnants of shallow lead mining), rock outcrops, and field boundaries
 - lack of protection for features e.g. dry stone walls, historic buildings
- 6.1.3.2 These need to be managed within and near the NL boundary, to ensure that the essential character and its setting is conserved and enhanced.
- 6.1.3.3 Dry stone walls are unprotected, dependent on individual landowners to maintain and restore them. Whilst several significant walls have been repaired, ~~the costs of wall restoration outweigh the available public agri-funding grants which, reduced agri-environment funding for wall restoration~~ has resulted in a decline in repairs.

Heritage Issues

- 6.1.3.4 There are currently 173 Scheduled Monuments within the MHNL. A total of eight Scheduled Monuments are recorded on the ~~Monuments Heritage~~ at Risk Register. The principal risks associated with these sites are arable clipping/ploughing, animal burrowing, permitted development, and scrub/tree growth.

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6.1.3.5 The Post Medieval period has the greatest number of Historic Environment Records (1,788), followed by the Medieval period (1,482 records) and the Industrial/Modern period (518 records). These together comprise 73% of the total number of records, but do not fully represent the historic environment of the MHNL as it survives today. For example, a record relating to a single ditched boundary or findspot is just an indication and not an accurate nor proportional representation of the wider associated activity of a particular date or period.

6.1.3.6 Whilst the condition of individual designated heritage assets is under much needed assessment by both Historic England and the MHNL volunteers, the threats to non-designated/undesigned heritage assets (the archaeological sites not protected through scheduling), which comprise the majority of historic resource, remains a significant concern. Some of those sites may be of national importance and the NPPF makes clear that where they are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, they should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

6.1.3.7 Climate change poses particular threats to the historic environment. Intense rainfall causes erosion of archaeological sites including, for example sensitive remains in caves, and increased extremes of soaking and drying also heightens the risk of ground subsidence and which may accelerate the decay of stonework. Changes in vegetation patterns may cover and damage archaeological remains. An area experiencing many of these issues is Burrington Commons. In 2011 an Archaeological Management Plan was produced for this area and used in the successful bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for the Discovering Black Down project that started May 2013.

6.1.3.8 Heritage assets are also vulnerable to crime due to their often isolated rural nature. For example, gates protecting sensitive areas within caves may be broken, and the caves may be subject to graffiti, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping etc. Community groups such as caving organisations can play an important role in monitoring and reporting any such damage.

Heritage Access Issues

6.1.3.89 The MHNL has been subject to detailed assessment projects during the first decade of this century. Even since this time, there have been considerable advances in survey technology; for example, Lidar resolution is continuously improving. Websites such as Google Earth are also an increasingly useful resource.

6.1.3.910 It has been established that the area has a rich and varied heritage resource, which is not always accessible or available to the public.

- 6.1.3.1011 A review of the currently available literature relating to the MHNL [\(including through the State of Heritage Report\)](#) has demonstrated that there are very few recent publications concerning the study area, with the two overview publications generally intended for a more academic audience. Although other written resources such as society publications, grey literature reports and journals are available, these are also aimed at a more specialist audience.

6.1.4 Solutions and Mitigations

Landscape Solutions

- 6.1.4.1 The National Character Area NL 141 for the Mendip Hills contains [the following](#) Statements of Environmental Opportunity that address the key issues identified above:
- 6.1.4.2 SEO 1: Conserve the distinctive combination of historic field boundaries, field and settlement patterns and land uses that have shaped the landscape of the Mendip Hills. Safeguard inward and outward views of and to the distinctive hill line and conserve and enhance the special qualities, tranquillity, and sense of remoteness and naturalness of the area.
- 6.1.4.3 SEO 2: Safeguard the rich geological features of this renowned karst landscape, the many archaeological features associated with the upland ridge and the historical mining legacy, enabling access, continued research, interpretation, understanding and enjoyment of the extensive geological and historical resource.
- 6.1.4.4 SEO 3: Conserve and sustainably manage the rural agricultural landscape and enhance the network of nationally and internationally important sites and semi-natural habitats associated with the distinctive geology and topography to create a coherent and resilient ecological network, enabling ecosystems to adapt to climate change and for the benefits to biodiversity, water flow, water quality and protection of the aquifer, soil quality, regulating soil erosion, rural heritage and culture.

Heritage Solutions

- 6.1.4.5 More syntheses of existing survey data and further detailed surveys such as Lidar are undertaken to enhance the existing recorded archaeological data held by the Historic Environment Records (HER).
- 6.1.4.6 Local museums and the three HERs offer opportunities for the public to explore the heritage of the area. The annual Mendip Rocks! programme of events raise awareness of the geology and archaeology of the Mendip Hills. This is a joint project between the NL Partnership, Somerset Earth Science Centre and the Mendip Society.

- 6.1.4.7 There is scope for more on-site interpretation of the most important monuments, to enhance public value and understanding.
- 6.1.4.8 Visual reconstructions would make the interpretation of complex sites such as that at Charterhouse more accessible, as would period visual landscape reconstructions.
- 6.1.4.9 A visitor centre/ heritage space would increase opportunities to facilitate historic environment outreach programmes, talks and demonstrations.
- 6.1.4.10 There is scope for a simple synthesis of the cultural heritage of the MHNL area, aimed at the public.
- 6.1.4.11 An increased heritage presence on the MHNL website and other media is also recommended
- 6.1.4.12 Promotion of the BANES, North Somerset and Somerset HERs.
- 6.1.4.13 Produce a specific research framework for the MHNL area.
- 6.1.4.14 Archives such as estate records offer a way of exploring the story of a landscape through aspects such as land ownership and mining.
- 6.1.4.15 There may also be some value in assessing undesignated heritage assets and landscapes in terms of the Landscape Character Areas.
- 6.1.4.16 The Historic Landscape Characterisation for the MHNL area should also be assessed, together with a review of data held by the National Trust.
- 6.1.4.17 Future projects may provide the opportunity for volunteer engagement and this should be encouraged where possible.
- 6.1.4.18 New fieldwork undertaken within the area should be incorporated into the HER in a timely manner, and where possible those designing projects should seek guidance from the appropriate Historic Environment Team to ensure that the results are of a suitable quality and can be disseminated appropriately.
- 6.1.4.19 The potential for future community archaeology projects that encourage local communities to better understand and value the nature of the historic environment is recommended.

6.2 Place Objectives

- 6.2.1 **Landscape Quality, Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage objectives:**
- PL1 Promote appropriate management to ensure that the distinctive landscape of the MHNL is conserved and enhanced
- PL2 Provide opportunities to acquire and develop skills required to care for and promote the landscape and its special qualities.
- PL3 Increase awareness and appreciation of the purposes of designation and the special qualities of the NL
- PL4 Increase awareness of the benefits of supporting local products and services that help conserve and enhance the landscape.
- PL5 Improve the recording, interpretation and understanding of all aspects of the NLs historic environment to ensure local communities and visitors enjoy a rich experience of the sense of place.
- PL6 Increase awareness and communicate the significance of the high quality historic environment of the Mendip Hills NL.
- PL7 Promote appropriate management of sites, structures and landscapes designated for their international, national, regional or local importance in the historic environment to ensure no further loss of heritage assets.
- 6.2.2 **Targets**
- Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes – see section 7.4 for a full description.
- Target 10**
- Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.
- In 2025 eight Scheduled Monuments are recorded on the Monuments at Risk Register.
- 6.2.3 **Resources helpful to landscape and heritage theme objectives delivery**
- Mendip Hills National Landscape State of Heritage Report 2024 [link to be added]
- Natural England National Character Area 141: The Mendip Hills [NCA Profile:141. Mendip Hills - NE416](#)
- Somerset Historic Environment Record [Somerset HER](#)
- North Somerset Historic Environment Record [Historic Environment Record | North Somerset Council](#)
- B&NES Historic Environment Record [Somerset HER](#)

6.3 Nature Theme

6.3.1 Vision

Vision for Nature – biodiversity, geodiversity and natural resources

- 6.3.1.1 The vision for Nature ~~will be~~ is to secure resilient and coherent ecological networks, ~~both within and beyond the NL boundaries. This will result in place providing more,~~ bigger, better, and more joined up habitats, ~~with and~~ the restoration of characteristic species. The creation of the Mendip National Nature Reserve in October 2023 contributes towards this coherency throughout the Mendip landscape. The area's diverse geology will be understood and managed for its importance, both in terms of the biodiversity, and ecosystem services that benefit wildlife, people and business. ~~The vision for Nature is for resilient and coherent ecological networks providing more, bigger, better, and joined up habitats, with the restoration of characteristic species. The creation of the Mendip National Nature Reserve in October 2023 contributes towards this coherency throughout the Mendip landscape. The area's diverse geology will be understood and managed for its importance, both in terms of the biodiversity, and ecosystem services that benefit wildlife, people and business.~~
- 6.3.1.2 ~~Integrated land use management that will restore and continue to enhance the area's natural capital including soils, food, and water supply.~~

Nature Overview

- 6.3.1.3 Geology, soil type, and human influences such as agriculture and mining, have resulted in the NLs distinctive landscape features, and give rise to the variety of habitats with their dependent flora and fauna.
- 6.3.1.4 Over millennia, humans have reduced the cover of woodlands, creating open habitats such as grassland. Land enclosures enabled farmers to create more agriculturally productive grasslands from heathland. In the more recent past, technological innovations have enabled significantly increased ~~the~~ agricultural yields of grassland, which has ~~also had an adverse impact and led to loss, fragmentation and degradation of previously commonplace nature-rich grassland habitats. changed the character of grassland habitats. Although Mendip supports some of the most species-rich grasslands in the county, they are a rarity, especially when you consider that these diverse habitats, and the wildflowers and other species that they support, were previously an everywhere-everyday part of the farmed landscape and the lives of local communities. Today, remnant sites continue to be lost or under threat and are generally confined to sites that were historically hard to farm intensively and are under sensitive long-term management. Species-rich grassland habitats are now increasingly rare and only occur where low intensity management takes place, and on inaccessible areas difficult to plough.~~

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- 6.3.1.5 Habitats of importance in the Mendip Hills include heathland, acid grassland, calcareous grassland, neutral grassland (meadows), calaminarian grassland (occurs on lead mined spoil heaps), purple moor grass, and semi-natural ancient woodland with typical Mendip species, ash and small-leaved lime.
- 6.3.1.6 Many sites in the Mendip Hills NL are designated for their biodiversity, including both UK and European designations. These sites are:
Chew Valley Lake Special Protection Area (SPA)
North Somerset and Mendip Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Mendip Limestone Grassland Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Mendip Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- 6.3.1.7 There are 27 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for their national importance for biodiversity. 96% of the 2712 ha designated SSSI is in favourable, or unfavourable and recovering condition. Local Wildlife Sites, where sensitively managed, act as buffers, stepping-stones, and corridors for these nationally designated wildlife sites. The Mendip National Nature Reserve was declared in 2023 encompassing two existing national nature reserves and 29 other SSSI.

Geodiversity Overview

- 6.3.1.8 The area is noted for its geodiversity, with a large range of rock types ranging from Devonian to Jurassic exposed in many natural rock outcrops and quarries. Limestone crags and cliff faces are home to many plant species including the rare and protected Cheddar pink (the flower of Somerset) present in Cheddar Gorge. The thin limestone soils support grassland insects and invertebrates. Many of the caves are roosting and hibernation sites for bats.
- 6.3.1.9 Carboniferous limestone has created the Mendip karst landscape, a terrain formed as percolating rainwater dissolves the rock, forming gorges, depressions, underground drainage and caves. Streams emerge at the foot of the hills where the limestone meets less permeable rock. Many of the geological features are designated SSSI and or Local Geological Sites.
- 6.3.1.10 The 'Netherworld' of Mendip is significant and cave exploration is ongoing, there are over 3000 entries on the Mendip Cave Register. In 2012 the largest Mendip cave was discovered, which has some of the most impressive stalactites and stalagmites in the UK.
- 6.3.1.11 Previous mining activities provide distinctive Mendip habitats due to the high levels of lead, cadmium, and zinc that are toxic to most plants. These metal rich habitats contain species such as spring sandwort, alpine penny cress and sheep's-s-fescue.

- 6.3.1.12 The three reservoirs, Chew, Blagdon and Cheddar, supply water to 1.2 million people and businesses in the Bristol Water area. Both Chew Valley Lake, and Blagdon Lake are internationally important for wildlife. Chew and Blagdon Lakes are designated as Drinking Water Protected Area Safeguard Zones along with the catchments that drain to them. The Environment Agency, Bristol Water, Natural England, and other partners are developing action plans to address the sources of nutrients in the lakes.

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6.3.2 Benefits and Opportunities

- 6.3.2.1 Protected landscapes have been identified to deliver more resilient and coherent ecological networks, healthy and well-functioning ecosystems which deliver multiple benefits for people and nature. Building the resilience of ecological networks will enable the ecological network to respond to climate change. The principle of conserving natural resources within the Mendip Hills NL, using them in the most sustainable way, and enhancing their contribution to the needs of society, is fundamental in the future management of the area. Water and soils are considered under this theme. Water management, both quality and availability, will benefit many ecosystem services, including soil quality, soil erosion, and biodiversity.
- 6.3.2.2 The Mendip Hills Nature Recovery Plan and the two Local Nature Recovery Strategies that will cover the area includes targeting management advice and Environmental Land Management schemes and other public investment in the most efficient and effective way to deliver multiple public benefits including biodiversity.
- 6.3.2.3 In addition, the Nature Recovery Plan will assist the local authorities' duty under the NPPF which sets out that to protect and enhance biodiversity plans should 'Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors, and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation'.
- 6.3.2.4 With respect to geodiversity, quarry companies in the Mendip area have invested in proactive relationships with the public, offering opportunities to visit, via the Somerset Earth Science Centre at Moon Hill Quarry.

6.3.3 Issues, Impacts and Barriers to Delivery

The pressing issues for biodiversity and geodiversity are loss of ecological networks and geological features, deteriorating condition and fragmentation of habitats, intensification of agriculture, new development, and less resources for management.

6.3.3.1 Climate Change Issues

Climate change will mean that the Mendip Hills are likely to get warmer; summers will continue to get hotter and drier, and winters will continue to get milder and wetter.

Climate change is likely to result in periods of heavy rain that may cause more frequent flood events from surface runoff, increased flooding of settlements at the foot of the hills, rock fall, soil erosion, and associated impacts on water quality. Increased carbon dioxide, and a longer growing season could potentially lead to double cropping with impacts on soil condition due to increased cultivation. There may be potential for growing different crops suited to a hotter climate, or we may see crop failure altogether.

Increasing occurrences of droughts will lead to increases in water demand for crop growth, business, and domestic use, drying out, and erosion of soils. Increased storminess, drought, and prevalence of pest and diseases, for example [aAsh Diebackdieback](#), are resulting in damage or loss of woodlands, ancient, and veteran trees.

There are many pests and diseases in the UK and threatening our local wildlife. However not all non-native species are invasive, and the Mendip Hills AONB does not currently suffer as badly as some landscapes from the abundance and impact of invasive non-native species. Nevertheless, this problem, as well as diseases impacting on our native species, are likely to get worse in the future due to the increase movement of people and goods, and because of climate change.

6.3.3.2 Water Issues

Flooding from run-off is increasing~~ly effecting-affecting~~ villages along the A368 and A371. ~~and~~ Flooding has been experienced in the Chew Valley and Cheddar, where the streams and river emerge. ~~North and Mid Somerset, and the~~ [The Bristol Avon Catchment Flood Management Plans covers part of](#) the NL.

Large part~~s~~ of the NL ~~is-are~~ within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone due to its contribution to the public water supply. Ground water quality is generally good overall although there is a need to reduce sources of diffuse agricultural pollution into the groundwater and water courses, and run-off, and soil erosion into watercourses. Grazing is restricted around the Chew and Blagdon reservoirs to prevent contamination.

The NL is adjacent to the Somerset Levels and Moors, ~~and the North Somerset Moors Sensitive Farming Priority Catchments,~~ where issues of nitrogen enrichment, phosphates, and sedimentation have been identified affecting the quality of Chew Valley Lake ~~and the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site~~. The area surrounding each of the reservoirs is designated a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, where farmers have to comply with EU regulations to reduce nitrate loss from agriculture.

There is an increased risk of soil movement where run-off risks soil deposition in water, and cave systems.

Further demands on the public water supply through increases in population may exacerbate over abstraction. Demand increase from new development may be offset by increased efficiency in existing housing and industry.

6.3.4 Solutions and Mitigations

Implementing Plans & Strategies

- 6.3.4.1 The Mendip Hills Nature Recovery Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Somerset and the West of England will need to be championed and used by their target audiences to create effective action for nature. The strategies set local priorities for nature recovery and maps areas where action to help nature will have the biggest impact, which will help to better target funding and resources for nature recovery. Both strategies that cover the NL are in-line with the Mendip Hills Nature Recovery Plan. In this context, new development can be both an opportunity and a threat. It will be important to ensure that proposed allocations in local plans and decisions on development, including quarry restoration schemes, maximise opportunities to deliver nature recovery.
- 6.3.4.2 The management group for the Mendip National Nature Reserve are preparing an over-arching management plan but it will be equally important for land adjacent and in-between each of 31 sites comprising the national nature reserve to be involved. Each of the 31 sites is designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest and/or National Nature Reserve. The Mendip National Nature Reserve declaration formalises the management of them as one.
- 6.3.4.3 There is a need to understand and recognise the geological importance of cave systems for their geological, and biodiversity importance. Caves need to be protected from damage by land use e.g. pollutants in water run-off, broken sewage pipes, soil erosion, tipping and infilling of swallets, and inappropriate recreational use, and where use disturbs roosting bats.

Water Solutions

- 6.3.4.4 Bristol Water needs to reduce the nitrate concentrations, and are working with farmers to reduce nitrate leaching, and run-off, for example using cover crops over winter, and by stopping slurry applications when nitrate will not be used by crop uptake. Bristol Water continues to educate consumers about economical use of water. Constraints to limit, or stop water being abstracted during low flow situations may become more frequent with a changing climate. Similarly, the southern parts of the Mendip Hills NL lie within the catchment of the River Brue which currently contributes to excessive levels of phosphates adversely affecting the conservation status of the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site. The NPPF makes clear that sites designated under the Ramsar Convention are afforded the same protection as if they were designated under the Habitats Regulations 2017. Mitigation measures associated with wastewater arising from new development within relevant areas within the NL, and the provision of nature-based solutions to run-off associated with other sources of phosphates will be required.

- 6.3.4.5 Whilst the run-off from land in this predominantly upland area is low, steep slopes in some areas can increase run-off rates locally, and with changing weather conditions has resulted in local flooding. It might be possible to reduce this by using natural flood management techniques including 'slowing the flow' of streams, expanding and maintaining semi natural habitat particularly woodland on the steep slopes and boundary features e.g. walls, and hedgerows.

6.4 Nature Objectives

6.4.1 Biodiversity, Geodiversity Natural Resources Objectives:

NA1 Increase the characteristic habitats and species of the Mendip Hills.

NA2 Promote a landscape scale approach to the conservation and enhancement of ecological networks within and adjoining the NL.

NA3 Increase monitoring and awareness of the biodiversity resource of the Mendip Hills NL so that it is sufficiently understood to continue to guide the successful conservation and restoration of the characteristic habitats and species.

NA4 Promote a partnership approach to implementing NL Management Plan objectives, Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework and National Character Area Statements of Opportunity.

NA5 Recognise and celebrate geological sites and features of the Mendip Hills NL to ensure the successful conservation both of the geology and wildlife habitat they provide.

NA6 Increase awareness of the Mendip Hills geology, particularly cave systems in relation to the importance they play in water management and water supply.

NA7 Recognise and promote the benefits and relevance of the NL as a valuable source of ecosystem services, economic and health benefits.

NA8 Promote conservation of water resources, reduce pollution and enhance their quality, by appropriate management and use.

NA9 Promote sustainable management of soils in accordance with best practice to minimise erosion and water pollution and maximise resilience to drought.

6.4.2 Targets

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes – see section 7.1 for a full description.

Target 1

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

How much of this target could be met in the Mendip Hills?

If the target was pro rata'd based on this Protected Landscapes' area without any local factors this would be 1,567.57 ha.

This would be equivalent to 78.38 ha per year between 2022 and 2042.

Target 2

Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

Target 3

For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

Target 4

Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

Target 5

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

6.4.3 Resources helpful to nature theme objectives delivery

Mendip Hills Nature Recovery Plan [Nature Recovery - Mendip Hills National Landscape](#)

West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy [The Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Toolkit - West of England Combined Authority](#)

The British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk/mendips

Mendip Cave Registry and Archive www.mcra.org.uk

www.environmentagency.gov.uk Groundwater Protection zones, Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, Flood Management Plans

www.naturalengland.gov.uk Sensitive Farming Catchments

www.bristolwater.co.uk – Chew, Blagdon and Cheddar lakes

6.5 Climate Theme

6.5.1 Vision

Vision for Climate - land management and development

- 6.5.1.1 The National Landscape is important for the mitigation of climate change and through appropriate land management it has the capacity to adapt to climate change. As the main land use agriculture continues to contribute to enhancing landscape character, ecological networks, and the provision of benefits: such as clean water. Native woodland will be managed for wildlife, climate change mitigation and recreation, as well as fuel.

The vision for Climate, is to secure the mitigation of the causes and effects of climate change through appropriate land management. As the main land use, agriculture will increasingly contribute to enhancing landscape character, ecological networks, and the provision of benefits such as clean water. Native woodland will be managed for wildlife, climate change mitigation and recreation, as well as fuel. Integrated and sustainable land use management will restore and enhance the area's natural capital including soils, food, and water supply. As part of this, a shift away from intensive agriculture towards sustainable long term management practices will be important, with support of government- funding, communities and consumers.

- 6.5.1.2 Development in, or near to the Mendip Hills NL will be truly sustainable contributing to the Government's climate change targets / Net Zero targets as well as for social, and economic needs of the area. Development will enhance, and respects the special qualities of the area, including visual and sensory tranquillity.

Landscape Overview

Carbon

- 6.5.1.3 A carbon audit carried out by Cranfield University (2022) on behalf of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (sponsored by Natural England) provided a baseline assessment of organic carbon storage capacity of, and fluxes from, Mendip habitats
- 6.5.1.4 The data shows 87% of all carbon is stored in our soils; 13% in biomass/vegetation.
- 6.5.1.5 The most notable priority and non-priority habitats for absorbing and storing the most carbon on Mendip are:
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (and lowland fen / rush pasture) – due to the high tonnes per hectare for this habitat.

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- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (both priority and non-priority) – due to the high tonnes per hectare for this habitat and amount of this habitat found within the NL.
- Improved grassland – due to the large quantity of this habitat found within the NL.
- Arable land is shown to lose the largest amount of carbon.

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6.5.1.6 The four most common habitat types - arable, deciduous woodland (priority and non-priority), and improved grassland cover 76% of the NL and account for 77% of total soil carbon stock. However suburban, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, semi-improved grassland, calcareous grassland and heathland (all lowland) only cover 11% of the total area of the NL but account for 16% of the total soil carbon stock.

6.5.1.7 Variation of soil depths across the NL is a factor to consider. Calcareous grassland is found on thinner soils and therefore able to store less carbon than, for example, the deeper soils of floodplain grazing marsh found on the Levels.

Farming

6.5.1.8 The Mendip Hills landscape is largely a result of the way the land has been shaped by different land uses, and maintained by farmers, landowners, and estate managers over the centuries. As such, those with a stewardship role in the Mendip Hills are an integral part of conserving and enhancing the landscape, and managing natural resources.

6.5.1.9 Farming is the major land use with 64% (12584 ha)⁴ of the NL being agricultural land. Of this farmed area 80% is temporary or permanent grass, and only 11% is arable. Grazing livestock is the predominant holding type. There is also some dairy and arable farming on the plateau. Beef, and sheep grazing are concentrated on the small, irregular fields and remnant sheep walks (sleights) of the escarpments, where the soils are thinner.

6.5.1.10 A number of farms owning traditional breeds have long been providing stock to graze land under conservation management for organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts, and National Trust. Much of this land is the steep slopes and gorges with public access, and where there is little benefit to the farmer, but is vital to control scrub on these grassland areas.

⁴ State of the Mendip Hills AONB Report 2018

- 6.5.1.11 The species rich grasslands provide important nectar sources for pollinating insects and are in close proximity to the arable farming of the plateau. Pollinators are critically important to the horticulture of the Strawberry Belt, growing mainly soft fruit which is focused on the high-quality agricultural land between Axbridge and Rodney Stoke. Proximity of semi-natural habitats, and encouraging use of field margins in arable land, is important to allow pest regulating species including insects, birds, and mammals to move across the landscape.

Woodland

- 6.5.1.12 Woodland covers 14.5% of the NL⁵, and significantly contributes to the landscape character and biodiversity. Half of the woodland, some of which is ancient woodland, is semi-natural broadleaved woodland, situated mainly on the north, and south facing slopes of the hills. The Government's Forestry Policy Statement⁶ recognises the value of our native and ancient woodland and the need to maintain existing ancient woodland and increase the net area of native woodland. There are a number of traditional and new orchards in the area, along with community managed orchards.

Development

- 6.5.1.13 Although the NL embraces 28 parishes lying wholly, or partly within its boundary, there are few major settlements ~~in the NL.~~ Most are spring-line villages with only Priddy on the plateau itself. Sensitive planning and design of development is crucial not just in retaining the character and appearance of the landscape, but also in promoting low carbon development and active travel. ~~- particularly the open spaces within villages, and the dispersed nature of development.~~

Quarrying

- 6.5.1.14 Quarrying is an important part of the Mendip economy. Callow Rock, and Batts Combe are the two major quarries in the NL, both extracting carboniferous limestone. To lessen their environmental impacts, quarries are required to meet acceptable levels of noise, dust, vibration and visual intrusion. Work has been undertaken by Somerset Council and Somerset Wildlife Trust to build into policy an ecological approach to restoration.

6.5.2 Benefits and Opportunities

Farming

- 6.5.2.1 Increasing consumer awareness, and demand for high quality products from sustainable farm management has contributed to an increase in the number of farm shops, and farmers supplying direct to local businesses. Encouraging growth in this sector will benefit climate regulation, and local culture.
- 6.5.2.2 Working with the local farming community to safeguard future food production whilst enhancing key ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water quality, water regulation (flooding), regulating soil quality and soil erosion, pollination services, and genetic diversity, geological and historic features is essential.

⁵ State of the Mendip Hills AONB Report 2018 (2865 hectares)

⁶ Keepers of Time – A statement of policy for England's Ancient and Native Woodland (Defra/Forestry Commission, 2005)

- 6.5.2.3 Farm payments are likely to be closely linked to 'public goods' around natural capital, conservation, and access. In addition to promoting good management of species rich priority grasslands, it will also be important to encourage uptake of options that promote wildlife benefits.
- 6.5.2.4 A range of 'green finance' options are emerging such as Biodiversity Net Gain. There uptake and impact is at a very early stage but there are positive possibilities
- 6.5.2.5 The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, financed by Defra and administered by the Mendip Hills NL team has provided approximately £300,000 per year (2012-24) in grants to farmers and land managers with demand outstripping funds available each year. The panel of specialists established to decide on the applications has proved a valuable panel for sharing knowledge.

Woodland

- 6.5.2.6 The Forestry Commission manages the conifer plantations at Rowberrow, Stockhill, and East Harptree, to maximise timber production and public benefits. Guided by Forest Design Plans, they are gradually being transformed into more diverse woodlands. These, and other areas of woodland are accessible to the public for recreation, and the value to people in having this access should be recognised.
- 6.5.2.7 There are woodland areas that potentially would benefit more from management for wildlife, economic, or recreational benefit, or a combination of these. As the value of timber (conifer), and wood fuel has improved over the last 15 years, private woodland owners may now consider sustainable management of woodland that would benefit biodiversity and landscape, and the sequestration and storage of atmospheric CO₂.
- 6.5.2.8 Opportunities for new large woodland planting are relatively limited as, particularly on the plateau, it needs to be in keeping with the open landscape character, and on the southern scarp that is mostly calcareous grassland, they are nationally important and designated SSSIs. However, there may be opportunities for targeted woodland creation in appropriate locations, to deliver a range of social, and environmental services benefits, such as mitigating surface water run-off.

Development

- 6.5.2.9 Within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework, there is a need to manage development pressures and land-use changes, both within, and in the setting of the NL with sensitivity to maintain a balance in ~~promoting~~ meeting economic and social ~~viability~~ needs, whilst retaining the character of the landscape and enhancing biodiversity. Strategies such as Green Infrastructure Plans, Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies Opportunity Mapping, and Landscape Character Assessments ~~may~~ will assist in securing this by shaping local plans.
- 6.5.2.10 ~~Two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) areas include the Mendip Hills NL, and it is hoped that that new economic development and infrastructure strategies they~~ will consider both the rural economy and ~~recognise~~ the benefits of a maintaining high-quality landscapes. ~~Their current areas of their work; Emerging priorities are likely to include~~ transport infrastructure, upgrading of digital infrastructure, ~~urban~~ green infrastructure, water supply and flood relief work ~~all stands to benefit the local economy~~.

6.5.3 Issues, Impacts and Barriers to Delivery

Carbon

- 6.5.3.1 There is an incomplete assessment of the carbon data supplied by Cranfield University, this is required to understand the management actions required.

Farming

- 6.5.3.2 The farm payment system is transitioning to the Environmental Land Management Scheme. Engagement with farmers is vital to inform, educate and inspire. A variety of farm cluster groups and engagement projects are in place but many suffer short-term funding. The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, financed by Defra and administered by the Mendip Hills NL team has no long term secure funding.

Woodland

- 6.5.3.3 Typical Mendip species being ash, the risk of ash dieback or Chalara fraxinea affecting woodland areas is significant, and will require landowners and managers to share information, and monitor impact.
- 6.5.3.4 Ensuring woodland development is in keeping with the landscape character is important in a National Landscape. Consultations concerning felling applications and planting need to be shared in a way that all can understand what is intended.

- 6.5.3.5 Recording of all tree planting is important but many small planting schemes go unrecorded.

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Development

- 6.5.3.6 The response in terms of development to the potential challenges of climate change and the impacts on the designated landscape are important issues to address. The need to reduce carbon emissions to tackle climate change is widely recognised and there are numerous measures in place to reduce energy use, improve energy efficiency and to reduce reliance on fossil fuels by generating electricity via renewable energy sources. Where protected landscapes are concerned, the environmental benefits of generating electricity from renewable sources must be considered against the potential adverse impacts that renewable energy infrastructure may have on the character, and quality of our finest landscapes.
- 6.5.3.7 Whilst any surface operations associated with fracking are not permitted within National Parks, the Broads, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NLs), and Source Protection Zones (SPZ)¹, licences have previously been issued to explore for oil and gas underneath nationally protected landscapes. A Written Ministerial Statement (May 2018) further sets out proposals that would effectively fast track fracking proposals. The NL Partnership has serious reservations about the process of fracking within nationally protected landscapes (sub-surface), and within the setting of the Mendip Hills NL, where this would have an impact on the designated area.
- 6.5.3.8 Traffic continues to detract from people's enjoyment of the environment and raises safety issues for vulnerable road users. Public transport needs to be improved to reduce the impact and enable greater access for people with mobility problems and those without access to private cars. Traffic including Heavy Goods Vehicles impact on the NL in variety of ways, including tranquillity, visual impact and damage to buildings.
- 6.5.3.9 Development pressure on the NL comes from many sources, including proposals within the setting of our northern boundaries for significant housing growth that will bring the urban area closer to the edge of the NL, increasing road traffic, and recreational use, and with the potential to impact on the special qualities that create the sense of place, and identity of the Mendip Hills NL. There are also development pressures along our southern boundaries which may impact on the NL. The impact of development on the protected landscape and the special qualities of the Mendip Hills NL would need to be carefully considered, and where supported would require appropriate, and acceptable mitigation measures.
- 6.5.3.10 Tourism is an important element of the economy of the NL. It is expected that there will be continuing demand for new tourist-related developments in and around the NL. It will be important to ensure that such development is sustainable and does not detract from the landscape that visitors come to enjoy.

- 6.5.3.11 Demand for new equestrian and agricultural buildings continues. The NL Guidelines for Horse-related Development and Agricultural Buildings Design Supplementary Planning Guidance/Documents seek to influence their design and setting and assist local planning authorities when making planning decisions that affect the NL.
- 6.5.3.12 Noise and activity arising from developments together with lighting, can have an adverse impact on the area's tranquillity and dark sky. Mapping of light pollution has shown that the area of dark skies in the Mendips is shrinking. The NL Partnership Position Statement on Dark Skies seeks local authorities and others to minimise the impact of lighting.
- 6.5.3.13 Design of roads, signage, and lighting can have a significant impact on the visual appearance of the landscape. Removing unnecessary visual clutter, and consideration of any new signage, is essential for an area in which three local authorities' boundaries meet. There is a need for highways authorities to use discretion when following national regulations, and to demonstrate they are furthering the purposes of the NL.
- 6.5.3.14 Although the quarry permissions to operate for significant periods into the future landscape, biodiversity, and recreational use of redundant quarries needs to be considered alongside other potential provision, to ensure that the way in which quarrying takes place, and the after use is planned to create long term benefit and restore natural capital.

6.5.4 Solutions and Mitigations

Carbon

- 6.5.4.1 Use the supplied carbon data and other sources of information to produce a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Mendip Hills NL.
- 6.5.4.2 Key recommendations already in place are:
- 6.5.4.3 Protecting and enhancing the small amount of floodplain grazing marsh in the NL (0.6% of NL) should be a priority (as well as lowland fen / rush pasture) due to its high carbon stock and deeper soils. In addition to helping fight the ecological and climate crises, this habitat has an important role in reducing flood risk and improving water quality and wetland connectivity.
- 6.5.4.4 Improving the management of existing habitats and protecting soils will go a long way. 55.1% of the NL is classed as improved grassland, therefore a focus on enhancing this habitat should be a priority. For example, by adopting regenerative farming techniques. Improving grassland and soil management (whilst maintaining areas of scrub) could help improve habitat condition and productivity. In some instances, this could be enhanced to semi-improved grassland, lowland heath, or deciduous woodland where suitable.

- 6.5.4.5 Arable makes up 5.8% of the NL and this land is shown as an emitter of carbon. Where suitable (in terms of safeguarding current biodiversity, landscape character, and productive farmland), planting new deciduous woodland on less productive arable land could be one of the most effective ways of sequestering more carbon in the NL. Where this is not an option, arable land would benefit from new native hedgerows and allowing existing ones to grow wider with tree standards and grassy field margins.

Farming

- 6.5.4.6 Long term funding for engagement with farmers should be a priority including, in particular, the continuation of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. So far as possible, the ~~should also be prioritised along with the use of the~~ Local ~~assessment~~ Assessment Panel ~~for should be used to guide~~ guiding Environmental Land Management Scheme payments in the National Landscape.

Woodland

- 6.5.4.7 The Mendip Hills Nature Recovery Plan and the two Local Nature Recovery Strategies should inform the location of woodland planting.

Development

- 6.5.4.8 Responsibility for determining planning applications, and transport matters lies with the local planning and highways authorities. The NL Partnership Committee 'Guidelines for the referral of planning applications' determines which applications are referred to the NL Team's Landscape Planning Officer for comment. The NL Partnership can play an important role by producing development guidelines to show what is appropriate in the NL and other forms of best practice.
- 6.5.4.9 In 2024 a consultation was undertaken around the potential use of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to temporarily close Cheddar Gorge to vehicle traffic. The results showed approx. 80% of respondents were in favour of this to create a safer and more enjoyable way to experience the natural winder of the gorge. Resources need to be identified to progress this work.
- 6.5.4.10 Issues and characteristic features relating to the conservation and enhancement of the NL should be incorporated in local plans, and Neighbourhood Plans. A number of villages have identified a need for affordable housing to support rural communities.

6.6 Climate Objectives

6.6.1 Land Management, Development and Transport Objectives:

CL1 Support and promote farming to have a positive impact on the Mendip Hills NL, contributing to climate adaptation and mitigation and to the furthering of the special qualities of the National Landscape, while remaining the principle land use.

CL2 Support and promote rural land management that conserves and enhances natural resources, including biodiversity special to the Mendip Hills, landscape character, the historic environment and aids public awareness and enjoyment of the Mendip Hills NL.

CL3 Support and promote a sustainable woodland economy that enhances the Mendip Hills NL woodlands and wider landscape with targeted woodland management of diverse species resilient to climate adaptation and mitigation, and creation in appropriate locations supporting wood fuel and local community opportunities.

CL4 Influence the use, restoration and after use of all quarries to minimise the impact on the landscape, contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation and to be compatible with the purposes of designation.

CL5 Working with the local planning authorities, ensure that development in the NL and its setting is of a nature, scale, location and design that meets community need, resilience to climate change and net zero targets, without compromising the special qualities of the Mendip Hills NL.

CL6 Working with the local highways authorities, ensure that the special qualities of the NL are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport and associated infrastructure.

CL7 Reduce carbon emissions within the NL through reducing energy consumption, applying energy conservation measures, encouraging more sustainable patterns of development, and utilising renewable energy generation technologies that are of an appropriate type and scale for their siting.

CL8 Ensure issues of importance for the management of the NL landscape are fully reflected in strategies and plans produced by other agencies and local communities.

CL9 The impact of development on the protected landscape and the special qualities of the Mendip Hills NL would need to be carefully considered, and where supported would require appropriate and acceptable mitigation measures.

6.6.2 Targets

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes – see section 7.1 for a full description.

Target 6

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

Target 7

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

How much of this target could be met in Mendip Hills?

If the target was pro rata'd based on the area of existing peat present within this Protected Landscape, without any local factors, this would be 21.12 ha. This would be equivalent to 0.75 ha per year between 2022 and 2050. **With local adjustments this is 0.75 ha per year between 2022 and 2050.**

The Mendip Hills has very little deep peat due to local conditions, 50.44ha or 0.25% of the area so there is very little opportunity to increase coverage. It will be more beneficial to protect all sites that have peaty soils and prevent them from drying out.

Target 8

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

How much of this target could be met in Mendip Hills?

If the target was pro rata'd based on this Protected Landscapes' area (i.e. 3% of the Protected Landscape area itself, not the area of existing woodland) without any local factors this would be 595.41 ha. This would be equivalent to 21.26 ha per year between 2022 and 2050. The total amount of woodland within this Protected landscape in 2050 would then be 4,614.65 ha or 17.5%. Currently the amount of woodland cover is 14.5% (2,869ha). **With local adjustments – an increase of 1.8% to 16.3%, total increase of 351ha, 12.5ha per year between 2022 and 2050.**

6.7 People Theme

6.7.1 Vision

Vision for People - recreation, access, tourism and participation

- 6.7.1.1 The vision for People is improving participation, increasing awareness and understanding, particularly for those in harder to reach communities in our cities and towns.
- 6.7.1.2 Provision for enjoyment by a diverse population, from both within and beyond the NL boundary, will be made through a wide range of active, and quiet pursuits that the area can sustain. The area will be accessible, regardless of individual mobility, disability, financial situation or background, including to historically under-represented groups. ~~wealth or background.~~
- 6.7.1.3 Significant numbers of the local community will be accessing training and learning ~~to benefit their involvement~~ in the conservation and enhancement of the Mendip Hills National Landscape. ~~This will be~~ either through direct employment in the rural economy, ~~or~~ as custodians of the landscape, influencing decision makers, or volunteering. This will be supported by increased understanding of nature, the landscape, the need for change and the difference we can each make. In visibly acting for nature, climate and landscape, people will encourage and enable others to do the same.

Landscape Activities

- 6.7.1.4 The NL landscape is a resource to be enjoyed by all sectors of our diverse society, for active, and quieter recreational pursuits. Outdoor recreation is ~~proved~~ proven to benefit people's health and wellbeing through exercise. The NL provides the opportunity to connect with nature which is beneficial to mental health and well-being. Being within a 30-minute drive from Bristol, Weston-super-Mare and Bath, the Mendip Hills NL is accessible to these urban populations, as well as the local rural communities.
- 6.7.1.5 Types of activities enjoyed by residents, day visitors and tourists (this list is not exhaustive):
- traditional use of the access network, which continues to be enjoyed. Rights of way, open access, woodland, nature reserves, permissive paths and trails and quiet lanes form a network across the landscape, popular (where lawful and permitted) for walkers, cyclists, equestrians, disability ATV users and off-road vehicles to explore.
 - popular activities undertaken on the network and in other locations, where facilitated, include bird watching, rock climbing, caving, abseiling, bush craft and archery.

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- exploring the long-distance recreational routes that cross and lead out from the National Landscape. These include National Cycle Network routes (NCN) 26 Bristol to English Channel (which includes the local Strawberry Line section), NCN 3 Bristol to Land's End West Country Way, and walking trails the Limestone Link, the Mendip Way and the Monarchs Way.

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- 6.7.1.6 Understanding the purpose of designation, what makes this NL special, with the need for sensitive management is crucial to the delivery of this Management Plan. People must have the opportunity to experience, enjoy, and learn about the NL, and why it is special. The NL Partnership plays a key role in raising awareness of the NL, largely through the NL Team. The NL Team provides information on request through printed and digital formats, including the NL Visitor Guide. In addition to these, there are other visitor outlets, and partner websites.
- 6.7.1.7 Most visitors to the Mendip Hills NL are day visitors, but tourism is increasingly an important part of the local economy as farmers diversify providing holiday accommodation and rural facilities (shops, pubs, public transport) that need to attract additional business to survive
- 6.7.1.8 Cheddar Caves and Gorge, Wookey Hole Caves, and Bristol Water's Chew Valley and Blagdon lakes are major tourist attractions, making significant contributions to the rural economy.
- 6.7.1.9 The provision of information, and interpretation, can increase understanding and enjoyment of the Mendip Hills, as well as attract visitors. The NL Team produces a Visitor Guide to the Mendip Hills, and downloadable walks in the Mendip Hills, as do other organisations including the National Trust, and Somerset Wildlife Trust.
- 6.7.1.10 There are a significant number of walking, running, and cycling events organised each year, some for charity fundraising.
- 6.7.1.11 ~~The~~Local communities demonstrate a strong appreciation for the area. Most villages have a local history group, and ~~L~~or run a traditional annual event, or have undertaken a conservation project. However, there is great potential to do more, and use people's interest to develop skills to manage the NL. Assisting communities to influence decisions and contribute to the protection and enhancement of the NL through better understanding of the designation, its boundary, and special qualities is recognised.

- 6.7.1.12 Increasing people's awareness and involvement amongst under-represented groups requires targeted approaches. In the past the Somerset NLs have had joint projects to address mental health issues through contact with nature. The NL Team currently has a Nature and Wellbeing Specialist Officer with only one year of funding. This officer has introduced groups to the NL who would not normally visit and built links between the NL and the NHS and local providers.
- 6.7.1.13 The Mendip Hills NL Young Ranger scheme established in 2005, provides a structured programme of training, and countryside experience for young people from surrounding schools. Modelled on the EUROPARC Junior Ranger scheme, the NL is part of the EUROPARC Atlantic Isles Initiative to develop a UK Young Ranger network.
- 6.7.1.14 Volunteering opportunities is provided by several of the organisations on the Partnership. Volunteers also help in offices, and long-term placements are taken up by students to gain work experience.

6.7.2 Benefits and Opportunities

- 6.7.2.1 Making people feel welcome and providing a high-quality experience is central to encouraging people to appreciate, ~~realize~~ the opportunities it offers and be involved in the care of the NL.
- 6.7.2.2 The offer of a high-quality accessible landscape could attract the development of products and packages within the Mendip Hills NL to increase the average spend of visitors. Partners could be encouraged to collaborate to improve the access network. The recent Mendip Way improvement project is a good example of undertaking practical improvements along a route, then promoting it nationally to draw in overnight visitors to experience the special qualities of the area.
- 6.7.2.3 The development of a multi-use strategic access and enhanced biodiversity green infrastructure network presents great opportunities. Between 2020 and 2024, The Trails Trust, in partnership with Defra ELMs Test and Trials team and support from the MHNH unit, researched:
- 6.7.2.4 • the willingness of landowners, managers and other stakeholders to deliver a multi- user green infrastructure network along with improvement, enhancement and maintenance within existing access space.
 - 6.7.2.5 • barriers to be overcome, incentives and the advice & guidance toolkit needed to support delivery.
 - 6.7.2.6 • mechanisms needed to support access and biodiversity creation, improvement and maintenance in land management plans (LMP).

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- 6.7.2.7 Organised outdoor activities are an important part of the Mendip Hills rural economy bringing in nearly £6 million directly to outdoor businesses, with those businesses spending £1.46 million⁷ locally. There are a significant number of businesses who use the Mendip Hills for outdoor activities and events that includes climbing, caving, abseiling, bushcraft, archery, and mountain biking. There has been changes in the outdoor industry over recent years with some smaller companies not trading while Mendip Activity Centre has expanded.
- 6.7.2.8 The NL Team supports a number of events including the annual Mendip Rocks!, Top of the Gorge, and agricultural shows, as well as promoting research and learning that both assist in raising understanding, awareness, and encourage participation.
- 6.7.2.9 Growing interest in green tourism has potential to create new employment opportunities. There are opportunities within the Mendip Hills to increase the average spend of visitors, and develop products and packages having a high quality landscape to base them. The Mendip Way is a good example of partners working together to do practical improvements along the route then promote it nationally to draw in overnight visitors and experience the special qualities of the area.
- 6.7.2.10 There are further opportunities to share research and learning, as often when completed or published, research and learning stays with the particular education body, individual, or organization. If shared it could assist with wider understanding of the NL, and its special qualities.

Projects with multiple benefits

- 6.7.2.11 The adoption of the 'champion species' via the Nature Recovery Plan has shown benefits through community involvement and awareness. Online videos, identification cards, talks, walks and social media content, practical work and surveying have all been carried out. This engagement and participation has led to better and more habitat and an increase in understanding population numbers and spread.
- 6.7.2.12 The Mendip Hills Fund was established with Somerset Community Foundation by the NL Partnership in 2014. The NL Team manages the independent panel and fundraising, with the Somerset Community Foundation administering the grant applications. Grants are available for projects in the NL, and East Mendip, that conserve and enhance the landscape, raise awareness of the area, and support the local community. Funds are raised through a variety of visitor giving schemes, contributions from local tourist business and events that use the NL. Each year the fund is able to distribute around £10,000.

6.7.3 Issues, Impacts and Barriers to Delivery

⁷ Economic Value of outdoor activity in the Mendip Hills AONB report (2006)

Recreation Impacts

- 6.7.3.1 Managing the demand for recreation in a landscape that is designated for its natural beauty that is also a working environment, with the majority of land under agriculture and in private ownership, is challenging. The continuation of visitor monitoring programmes is essential. Areas of conflict may arise between different user groups where activities (legal and illegal) have impacted on people's enjoyment.
- 6.7.3.2 Conserving landscape and scenic beauty so that the NL continues to attract visitors is key for the local tourism economy. The need for economic growth and new development should not be at the expense of landscape quality, and this has been recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 6.7.3.3 Alongside the maintenance of the existing rights of way network which needs more attention, the NL needs to increase access provision to spread the current impact and cope with future increases in use caused by the increase in housing in the area. The new farm payment systems and other types of financial support need to be tailored towards compensating landowners for new access and the maintenance of the existing network, especially as public sector funds are very limited at present.
- 6.7.3.4 Intense rainfall has seen a number of well-used rights of way heavily eroded by surface material being washed away, compounded by ongoing heavy usage. Site management measures will need to be introduced to tackle some of these issues, which may require seasonal restrictions on use of certain routes or areas, and during long dry periods when there is an increased risk of fire. A better understanding of the impacts of off-road events is required.
- 6.7.3.5 Habitat deterioration, or loss of sensitive wildlife habitats due to an increase in number of tourist visits, increased leisure use, and ~~or~~ new access ~~could~~can and does occur without careful management. Habitat deterioration or loss occurs from trampling, and this can be exacerbated on steep slopes with extreme weather events causing increased damage. ~~Dogs can also impact on wildlife via disturbance to ground nesting birds and other flora and fauna as well affecting water quality and by nitrogen enrichment from dogthorough~~ fouling. Damage can also occur through fires and litter associated with barbeques and irresponsible wild camping.
- 6.7.3.6 While the plan's objectives include the promotion of the area to groups that haven't traditionally benefitted from the landscape, it is essential that this should be done in a way that avoids damaging habitats and sensitive locations and is not likely to significantly increase pressure. Any access improvements, for example replacing stiles with gates, will be made with careful consideration of the surrounding habitat so as not to have an adverse effect.

- 6.7.3.7 Recreational use of the National Landscape should not be allowed to adversely affect the National Landscape's special qualities. For example, measures will need to be put in place to minimise and mitigate recreational pressure arising from new developments both inside and outside the National Landscape, especially where these developments are located close to sensitive locations, such as designated nature conservation sites.
- 6.7.3.8 The low level of public transport provision inhibits visiting much of the Mendip Hills for those without access to a car.
- 6.7.3.9 The Trails Trust research, conducted as part of a Test and Trial for Defra, showed that land managers face common issues from recreation. The impacts / barriers experienced were dog / dog owner behaviours, unintentional trespass, gates left open, littering, criminal activities (theft wildlife crime, dumping / fly tipping, 4x4 abuse of access routes and farmland). Other barriers included concerns about occupier's liability and liability for trees and maintenance and lack of reward, specialist support and facilitation for path creation and improvement.
- 6.7.3.10 There is currently a fragmented approach to use of the Mendip Hills for people's health and wellbeing by the health sector. Developing new partnerships through the local authorities Public Health and Wellbeing Boards is an opportunity to seek to address this.
- 6.7.3.11 Maintaining and developing existing volunteer programmes and schemes, and offering new opportunities is a challenge with current levels of funding.
- 6.7.3.12 There is a need to encourage more residents to understand and support the purpose of the NL through their involvement in local activities including Neighbourhood Plans to conserve and enhance the NL (see also Development and Transport Objective D4).

6.7.4 Solutions and Mitigations

Resolving connectivity in the National Landscape

- 6.7.4.1 Landscape connectivity can be delivered through a strategic multi use green infrastructure access network comprising linear routes, routes to communities and local circuits. Upgrading existing public footpaths and creating access along green lanes and margins, where access does not already exist, can provide for the aspirational routes necessary for strategic connections. A well-publicised connected network delivers multiple benefits to the public and to the rural economy. Highway exit and crossing point issues could be resolved through maintenance in land management plans, specialist help or provision in road improvement schemes.

Access provision, maintenance and monitoring

- 6.7.4.2 Increasing access provision for all is necessary to spread the current impact and cope with future increases in use caused by the increase in housing in the area. The new agri-schemes and other types of financial support need to be tailored towards rewarding landowners for creating and improving access and maintaining the existing network, especially as public sector funds are very limited at present.
- 6.7.4.3 The NL Team has installed visitor counters at 15 locations. The results are downloaded and sent to the landowner and the Partnership. Most were installed in 2019 prior to the pandemic. The results show that visitor figures to the area have taken 3 years to return to 2019 levels. Each location has its own particular characteristics this prevents between location comparisons across the entire PL. This data becomes richer and more valuable the longer that it is collected, allowing examination of changing visitor numbers and the impact that this has on the location over time.
- 6.7.4.4 The NL Partnership has produced guidance for event organisers, to help minimise impact of events on the landscape. Partners also work together to manage the impacts of these events on the right of way network. Providing appropriate information including online, and on site, for different, and new audiences is important to ensure people can access the area and are aware of its importance. Licensing authorities should consult with the NL team for any events that could affect the landscape and/or rights of way network.

Participation

- 6.7.4.5 There are opportunities to harness people's interest in the MHNL to drive initiatives to manage, ~~and~~ conserve and restore the landscape, enabling nature to recover and adapt to climate change. New partnerships need to be fostered with all stakeholders. These include the unitary authorities, parish councils, user groups, landowners and managers, education establishments, third sector and private investors. Stakeholders can influence decisions and contribute to the protection and enhancement of the NL through a better understanding of the designation, its boundary, and special qualities.
- 6.7.4.6 One opportunity is to develop partnerships through Public Health and Wellbeing Boards. Another is to encourage more residents to understand and support the purpose of the NL through their involvement in local activities including Neighbourhood Plans, (see also Development and Transport Objective D4). Further opportunities are for educational bodies to share research and learning, because often when completed or published, research and learning stays with them, when it could promote understanding of the landscape.

6.8 People Objectives

6.8.1 Recreation, Access, Tourism and Participation objectives:

PE1 Maintain, improve and promote public access and quiet recreational activities, addressing anti-social activities and avoiding sensitive habitats, with measures to ensure access for all in accordance with the purposes of the National Landscape designation.

PE2 Support the development of tourism that benefits the local economy, conserves and enhances the landscape including sensitive habitats, and improves understanding of the Mendip Hills.

PE3 Develop and deliver a safe, accessible, connected strategic network of green infrastructure routes and space that works for people and nature, avoiding particularly sensitive habitats, and promote more sustainable methods of travel to the NL for enjoyment and recreation.

PE4 Support healthy lifestyles by encouraging more people to ~~use~~ enjoy the Mendip Hills for sustainable outdoor activities, while ensuring they avoid sensitive habitats.

PE5 Increase the opportunities for volunteering and the range of people participating, to benefit the environment, people's health and wellbeing and local communities in and around the NL.

PE6 Encourage the involvement of local people and the wider community in the ~~sustainable~~ management of the NL.

PE7 Promote the Mendip Hills as an educational resource for all ages and encourage sharing of research and learning tools.

PE8 Improve equality, diversity and inclusivity in the management and governance of the Mendip Hills National Landscape.

6.8.2 Targets

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes – see section 7.1 for a full description.

Target 9

Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our [Defra] Access for All programme.

6.8.3 Resources helpful to people theme objectives delivery

Mendip Hills National Landscape [Visit Mendip Hills National Landscape - Designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#)

Ordnance Survey maps & apps <https://explore.osmaps.com/>

Defra Magic maps [MAGIC](#)

Somerset Public Rights of Way [Public Rights of Way](#)

North Somerset Rights of Way Improvement Plan [Rights of way improvement plan | North Somerset Council](#)

B&NES Right of Way Improvement Plan [Rights of Way Improvement Plan | Bath and North East Somerset Council](#)

British Standard 5709 2018 gaps, gates and stiles [Understanding BS5709 3gn](#)

Countryside code and advice for land managers [The Countryside Code - GOV.UK](#)

Waymarking public rights of way: [NE WAYMARKING \(5622\)](#)

Disability and equality act: <https://www.oss.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Authorising-structures.pdf>

Disabled Ramblers [Disabled Ramblers – Enjoying the countryside](#)

ELMs test results <http://www.thetrailstrust.org.uk>

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7 Delivering the Plan and Monitoring the State of the National Landscape

- 7.0.1 In addition to monitoring the successful delivery of the Management Plan, the Partnership will monitor the state (or condition) of the National Landscape. Both types of monitoring play important roles in identifying key issues, and in assessing the continued relevance of Management Plan objectives and associated actions.
- 7.0.2 Every five years, prior to the review of the management plan, the Partnership will publish a State of the Mendip Hills NL report.
- 7.0.3 At a local level statutory agencies operating in the area, particularly Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency together with the local authorities, make positive contributions to efficient collation of data for monitoring as part of their general duty to conserve and enhance the NL.
- 7.0.4 The Mendip Hills NL Partnership produces a 5-year Delivery Plan in support of the Management Plan, an Annual Activity Plan, and Annual Reviews to report progress (see www.mendiphills-nl.org.uk).

7.1 Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

- 7.1.1 To support Protected Landscapes in meeting their huge potential for nature, climate, people and place Defra are establishing ambitious targets for National Parks and National Landscapes. These targets will promote the actions that are most needed to achieve positive changes. They will set the ambition for how Defra expect Protected Landscapes to achieve their 25 year Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP).

Thriving plants and wildlife targets

- 7.1.2 Protected Landscapes have significant environmental potential, containing almost half of England's priority habitats. They also contain over half of our most precious sites for biodiversity, land designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). To ensure these habitats are reaching their full potential for nature recovery, Defra have set targets to motivate more activity on the components needed to ensure wildlife can thrive.
- 7.1.3 The protection, restoration, creation, and management of priority habitats will increase species abundance. It will help turn the tide on extinction risk and support our international commitment to protect 30% of land by 2030 ([30by30](#)). The adoption of nature friendly farming practices will help stop biodiversity loss and increase species abundance alongside sustainable food production.
- 7.1.4 It is important to note these targets are for the landscape as a whole and will only be achieved by a wide partnership. Protected Landscape bodies and partners should seek to increase the amount of land in favourable management through meeting the targets below and other available means. This will maximise the contribution that Protected Landscapes can make towards our national targets for nature recovery.
- 7.1.5 The methods and programmes of work to achieve the targets and outcomes will form part of the associated delivery plan for the management plan.
- 7.1.6 Targets 1, 7 and 8 are being apportioned for each Protected Landscape. See Mendip Hills NL targets in Table 2 below.

Target 1

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

How much of this target could be met in the Mendip Hills?

If the target was pro rata'd based on this Protected Landscapes' area without any local factors this would be 1,567.57 ha. This would be equivalent to 78.38 ha per year between 2022 and 2042. **With local adjustments this is 78.38 ha per year between 2022 and 2042.**

Target 2

Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

Target 3

For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

Target 4

Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

Target 5

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change targets

- 7.1.7 Protected Landscapes contain some of the UK's most important carbon stores, including significant tracts of peatland, woodland and hedgerows providing important carbon sinks for achieving net zero. To ensure we are maximising the opportunities for climate mitigation within our Protected Landscapes we have set targets for restoring peat and increasing tree planting. Restoration and ongoing management of these habitats is essential for sequestering and storing carbon into the future, and therefore reducing net greenhouse gas emissions. They can also provide natural flood management and other benefits for farmers and local communities.
- 7.1.8 Protected Landscapes are leading action to achieve net zero at a landscape level, working with residents, businesses and communities, aiming to reduce emissions and deliver nature-based solutions. We have set a target to support them in this ambition and strengthen their important contribution to our world leading target to achieve net - zero by 2050.
- 7.1.9 Tree planting and peat restoration at scale will support new skills and green jobs, attract private investment and help grow the rural economy.

- 7.1.10 For the long-term protection of our iconic landscapes, action is needed to increase their resilience and that of the communities within them. We must mitigate climate risks through nature-based solutions and adapt to the unavoidable impacts, planning for a changing future.

Target 6

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

Target 7

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

How much of this target could be met in Mendip Hills?

- 7.1.11 If the target was pro rata'd based on the area of existing peat present within this Protected Landscape, without any local factors, this would be 21.12 ha. This would be equivalent to 0.75 ha per year between 2022 and 2050. **With local adjustments this is 0.75ha per year between 2022 and 2050.**
- 7.1.12 The Mendip Hills has very little deep peat due to local conditions, 50.44ha or 0.25% of the area so there is very little opportunity to increase coverage. It will be more beneficial to protect all sites that have peaty soils and prevent them from drying out.

Target 8

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

How much of this target could be met in Mendip Hills?

- 7.1.13 If the target was pro rata'd based on this Protected Landscapes' area (i.e. 3% of the Protected Landscape area itself, not the area of existing woodland) without any local factors this would be 595.41 ha. This would be equivalent to 21.26 ha per year between 2022 and 2050. The total amount of woodland within this Protected landscape in 2050 would then be 4,614.65 ha or 17.5%. Currently the amount of woodland cover is 14.5% (2,869ha). **With local adjustments – an increase of 1.8% to 16.3%, total increase of 351ha, 12.5ha per year between 2022 and 2050.**

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets

- 7.1.14 Protected Landscapes are designated for their natural beauty and provide a range of health and wellbeing benefits and educational opportunities. We know these benefits are not currently being enjoyed equally by all parts of society. Protected Landscapes have a distinctive sense of place and represent our shared heritage and national identity. These special qualities must be protected for everyone to enjoy. The EIP made a commitment that everyone in England should live within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space. It also committed to reduce other barriers that prevent people from accessing green and blue spaces, such as physical challenges, lack of confidence and lack of information. Protected Landscapes should be setting the standard for meeting this commitment, leading efforts to increase responsible access and engagement with nature.
- 7.1.15 To ensure that more people have the opportunity to enjoy and learn from these special places, we have set targets to improve accessibility for all. Protected Landscapes are leading the way to promote accessibility to the natural environment. They are using a range of tools such as engaging schools, providing disabled facilities and improving trails and waymarking. Targets will also conserve the important sense of place that these landscapes bring to our country and communities.
- 7.1.16 The government wants to boost visitor numbers in a safe and manageable way for local areas, allowing people, communities and businesses to reap the benefits of tourism, growing the rural economy, whilst preserving heritage and natural assets.
- 7.1.17 We rely on Protected Landscape bodies to gather relevant data to measure progress towards our beauty, heritage and engagement outcome. We will continue to work with Protected Landscape bodies and other partners to explore the benefits of further developing targets to improve and promote accessibility and engagement.

Target 9

Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

Target 10

Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

7.2 The Mendip Hills NL Nature Recovery Plan (NRP)

- 7.2.1 The Nature Recovery Plan has been developed in collaboration with the NL Partnership and a range of stakeholders, landowners, and local experts. It is a deep dive into the species and habitats of the Mendip Hills NL and sets out how to help them recover across this special landscape.
- 7.2.2 The National Landscape Association committed in 2019 to developing Nature Recovery Plans (NRP) to help contribute to this commitment, as set out in the Colchester Declaration¹³. NRPs for each NL will be produced with contributions from stakeholders including government and non-governmental organisations, and landowners; they will also be subject to peer review by specialists and will be based on sound data including from Local Record Centre's as well as national datasets.
- 7.2.3 The Nature Recovery Plan identifies Priority Habitat, statutory and non-statutory sites, condition assessments of SSSIs to produce nature recovery network maps. Priorities have been set, Champion Species identified and local prescriptions created that coincide with the 11 different landscape character areas.
- 7.2.4 Priority habitats present within the Mendip Hills National Landscape
 - Arable field margins
 - Calaminarian grassland
 - Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
 - Deciduous woodland (including ancient semi-natural and ancient replanted)
 - Good quality semi-improved grassland
 - Hedgerows (native)
 - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
 - Lowland beech and yew woodland
 - Lowland calcareous grassland
 - Lowland dry acid grassland
 - Lowland fen
 - Lowland heathland
 - Lowland meadows
 - Ponds
 - Purple moor grass and rush pastures
 - Reedbeds
 - Rivers
 - Traditional orchards
 - Upland mixed ashwoods
 - Wet woodland
 - Woodland pasture and parkland

7.3 Targets for the Mendip Hills National Landscape

Table 2. The apportioned targets from the PLTOF and Nature Recovery Plan have been combined here to show what needs to be achieved in this protected landscape.

Targets	Nature Recovery Plan	Defra PLTOF	Locally adjusted PLTOF
SSSIs in favourable condition by 2040/2042 (%)	75%	80%	80%
SSSIs in favourable condition by 2050 (%) [currently 43%]	100%	100%	100%
Tree/woodland cover increase by 2050 (ha)	351	595	351
Tree/woodland cover total by 2050 (%) [currently 14.5%]	16.3%	17.5%	16.3%
Statutory and non-stat sites for nature increase by 2050 (ha)	792		
Statutory and non-stat sites for nature total by 2050 (%) [currently 26%]	30%		
Priority habitats increase by 2050 (ha)	297		78ha
Priority habitats total by 2050 (%) [currently 12.5%]	14%		
Wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites restored/created by 2042 (ha)		1568ha. (78ha per year starting 2022)	
30by30 now [using locally devised metrics]	29.5%		
30by30 increase (ha)	6138		
30by30 2030	31.0%		
30by30 2050	35.5%		
No. of extra sites surveyed or events held for Champion Species by 2025	26		
No. of new 'homes' for Champion Species by 2025	60		
No. of sites where habitat is improved for Champion Species by 2030	60		
Creation / restoration of linear features by 2030 (km)	14		

7.4 Climate Change Adaptation Plans

- 7.4.1 The UK government's third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) introduces the requirement for all protected landscape bodies to produce Climate Change Adaptation plans for their landscape by 2028. This plan will be embedded and linked with the Management Plan. They will include specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely actions and objectives designed to adapt PLs to climate change.
- 7.4.2 Adopting Climate Change Adaptation Plans will be essential in minimising and managing the impacts of climate change on England's protected landscapes. Alongside the publication of NAP3, climate change adaptation should be fundamental to the development of the ambitions set out in Management Plans, and the way in which they will be achieved. Climate Change Adaptation Plans should consider the impacts of climate change on all parts of the PL including nature, people and place. Climate Change Adaptation Plans are to be completed on a 5-year cycle, preferably in line with the Management Plans.

7.5 Climate Vulnerability Assessment

- 7.5.1 The following table is an initial headline assessment designed to introduce the concept into the plan now prior to a complete assessment produced before 2028. The special qualities are used as the starting point for assessment. The full adaptation plan will need to look at more features of the landscape as the current special qualities contain a range of features worthy of closer examination.
- 7.5.2 In simple terms the UKCP18 projects a greater chance of hotter, drier summers and warmer wetter winters with an increased chance of extreme events. Source [UKCP18](#).
- 7.5.3 The RAD column refers to:
 Resist – maintain ecosystem processes, structure, and composition with present-day or historical conditions.
 Accept – allow current-change drivers to transform ecosystems to something that is different from present-day or historical conditions.
 Direct – steward ecosystems to conditions that are more desirable than what would be achieved with accepting change.

Special Quality*	Rain +	Temp. +	Extreme events	Reasoning	Response	RAD	Opportunities
Dark skies, tranquillity & sparsely populated plateau	L	L	L	Unlikely to have significant visual effect on the landscape. Wildfires on heathland sites could affect the character. Possible long term effect of more development pressure on the plateau as Somerset Levels faces increase flooding.	Establish and maintain a healthy mix of habitats and planting to maintain landscape character, mitigating against loss of individual species. Manage heathland grassland sites to reduce risk of wildfires. Local planning authorities to monitor development pressure and ensure the purposes of the NL are furthered.	D	Nature will benefit from creating more diverse habitats.
Limestone aquifer	L	H	M	Water levels will fluctuate highly from lots of rainfall and deluge events to prolonged spells of high temperatures causing drought. Increased demand for water by society leading to more extraction of water and more storage facilities; from reservoirs to tanks on farms.	More natural flood management solutions required to slow the flow and even out the fluctuations. Swallets will need to be maintained more regularly to ensure they are not blocked.	D	Nature will benefit from installing natural flood management solutions.
Historic environment	M	L	H	Built heritage structures above ground will be vulnerable to increased damage from water penetration and frost damage leading to more rapid degradation of ruined buildings. General archaeological sites such as earthworks and remnant	The most significant built structures above ground should have their condition monitored for signs of rapid damage. Historic England for Monuments at Risk will cover Grade 1 and 2* buildings (but not Grade 2 and below). Scheduled monuments should have	A	Involvement of the community in monitoring and understanding their historic environment. Drought periods may expose new archaeological features.

				field systems will be vulnerable to erosion, which may cause damage to features. Waterlogged features (eg, relic ditches, pits) may dry out and loose preservation.	their condition regularly assessed by Historic England for Monuments at Risk.		
The Chew Valley	M	M	H	Lowland grass areas will be subject to water logging but due to deeper soils should cope with increased temperatures. Arable fields will be subject to loss of soils from run off or windblow when dry. Hedgerows and woodland areas will be less affected by increased rain and temperatures if they are healthy.	Focus on healthy soils, field margins to prevent run off, higher and wider hedges for shade and to trap run off. Natural flood management installations. The Chew Valley can absorb more tree planting in hedges, shelter belts and field corners.	D	Farm engagement to increase knowledge around soil health. Sequestering carbon through bigger and better hedges and more tree planting. Reinforcing the landscape character through tree planting. Training and employment via traditional hedgerow management to prolong the life and value of the hedge. Natural flood management will increase the range of habitats.
South facing slopes	H	H	H	High temperatures will increase droughts on thin soils. Increased rainfall will remove thin soils in places. Grazing will become more complicated to ensure the stock have enough to eat and don't increase the damage to the soils. Increased risk of wildfires. Vehicles movements will increase damage to soils. Scrub and woody species expected to grow faster requiring increased levels of management. High potential for the landscape character to change.	Increase mosaic of habitats on all sites. Increase hedges and drystone walls to provide shelter. Requires a more flexible approach to grazing and the use of new technology to manage flocks and herds. Different types of grazing animals may need to be introduced. Fire breaks will need to be cut.	A	Land managers working in a more coordinated way around grazing and the provision of water. Carbon sequestration via bigger and better hedges. Use of traditional skills around walling and hedging.
A landscape enjoyed by many	M	M	M	Reduced opportunities to use the area for recreation during rainfall and high temperature periods, plus extreme events, will have an impact of peoples physical and mental health increasing pressure on other health sectors. Right of way network negatively affected by increased rainfall causing erosion and contributing flooding incidents. Outdoor events more likely to be adversely affected resulting in cancellations. Reduced likelihood for land owners to grant permissions for events when damage may be likely.	Create better green infrastructure to cope, including better surfacing and drainage, more planting and appropriate management of hedges along routes for shade. Create shaded areas at key visitor sites. Require event organisers to produce contingency plans for different weather types.	A/ D	Improved green infrastructure will increase connectivity for wildlife. A more accessible network will allow a greater diversity of people to use it.

				Climate change will increase change in midge borne spread of disease in livestock and human health.			
Views in and out	L	L	L	Views out may be more affected by an increase in solar farms and wind turbines. Unlikely to change the views in.	Local planning authorities to monitor development pressure and ensure the purposes of the NL are furthered.	D	
Limestone ridge	L	L	L	The ridgeline and landform is unlikely to change. Increased woodland planting and more scrub to increase a mosaic of habitats as a response to other vulnerabilities identified may result in minor changes.	Vulnerabilities identified here that pose a greater risk need to be addressed as a priority.	A	Opportunities identified resulting from other responses will have more benefits to the Mendip Hills NL.
Visible geology	M	L	M	Wetter and drier conditions can both cause increased erosion, affecting both features themselves and access to them. Drought and high temperatures could adversely affect organic cave deposits through desiccation. A longer growing season caused by generally warmer temperatures will mean vegetation grows faster and for longer and may impact features such as scree slopes and rocky outcrops. Extreme events such as floods increases slope instability, the washing away of sediments & soils and the likelihood of swallets or caves system to collapse. Increased concentrations of co2 in the atmosphere increases dissolution of karst features.	Natural systems are dynamic and the most sustainable management approach requires an acceptance of the inevitability of change by, for example, allowing the renewal of cliff exposures through erosion and collapse; this allows natural processes to proceed. Sustainable management requires an adaptive long-term view that works with the changing landscape, focusing on conserving and ensuring a diversity of geological sites and geomorphological features and processes through auditing features, monitoring them and recording change.	A	Involvement of the community in monitoring and understanding their geological environment. Natural flood management will increase the range of habitats.
Caves	M	L	M	Cave deposits and other waterlogged archaeological deposits - intact cave deposits will be at risk of erosion in times of exceptional floods. There will be a risk of desiccation of waterlogged contexts in times of extreme drought with consequent loss of organic material.	The most significant intact cave deposits should be identified and monitoring of their condition undertaken especially in/after extreme events.	A	Involvement of the caving community in monitoring and understanding their geological environment. Natural flood management will increase the range of habitats.
Ancient wooded combs	M	M	H	Healthy woodlands will be fairly resilient to high and low rainfall, but woods suffering from ash dieback will be more vulnerable to heavy rainfall-induced erosion or dry/ hot conditions effecting affecting ancient ground flora. This will also be true for extreme events.	Ash dieback has had a large, negative effect on the health of our woodlands and how we respond to this is important in terms of response to expected climate change impacts. A wide range of species and good structure is important. General approach should be to allow natural re-	A/ D	Support community tree nurseries that collect seed from the Mendip Hills. Involvement of the community in monitoring and understanding their woodland environment. Support networks of woodland owners to share information and insight.

				Ash dieback-compromised woodlands will be more effected^{affected} by high winds and lack of moisture. Extreme events can cause leaf-drying & drop or storms take out veteran trees.	generation but very bare areas, steep areas with a lot of erosion may need some re-stocking. The approach should be to use trees of local provenance. Monitoring of re-generation will influence future decision-making on need for re-planting and future species choices.		
Drystone walls.	L	M	L	High temperatures cause desiccation of the exterior of the wall (mosses etc.) and this allows extremes of rainfall to undermine structural integrity of the wall, leading to increased need for patching & repair. Roadside walls in particular are more vulnerable from increased rainfall standing on the road leading to extra splash from traffic. Due to their location these walls are harder to access to repair but are of high landscape value due to their visibility.	Ensure dry-stone walling skills are retained, staff and volunteers are well-trained. Focus on patching walls as less labour intensive, improves the structural integrity of the wall faster, requires less new stone and causes less disturbance to wildlife. Building new walls is still important for connectivity and shade. Drystone walls are relatively low in terms of vulnerability to climate change but provide high value for mitigation through connectivity between habitats, refuge, shade and buffering against extremes.	D	Patch and build more walls as they are of high value to nature, reinforce the landscape character and provide opportunities for mitigating the effects of climate change. Use of traditional skills around walling and hedging. Involvement of the community in monitoring and understanding the walls..

* For a more comprehensive description of the special qualities see section 5.2

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership and Team Structure

- A1.1 The **Mendip Hills NL Partnership** holds the formal status of a Joint Advisory Committee to the three local authorities. The diverse representation of partners allows the partnership to have an independent 'voice' separate from the local authorities. Members of the Partnership are expected to apply their expertise and experience to contribute to the realisation of the NL's vision.
- A1.2 The **Officer Support Group** is comprised of appropriate officers from every local authority partner, along with a representative from Natural England, the Partnership Chairman, and Vice-Chair. The main duties and obligations of the Officer Support Group include offering assistance to the NL Team via the NL Manager and the Partnership Committee, collaborating with the Manager to determine the structure and topics of the agendas for the Partnership Committee meetings, and establishing the procedure for implementing the decisions made by the Partnership Committee.
- A1.3 The **NL Team**, under the guidance of the NL Manager, comprises a compact group dedicated to carrying out the responsibilities of the Partnership. This team receives support from volunteers such as rangers, practical task volunteers, and Young Rangers. For further details on Defra's Core Functions of a National Landscape Team, please see below.

- A1.4 The Partnership establishes **Working Groups**, as and when required, to provide specialist advice and guidance on issues relating to policy development, the review or delivery of the NL Management Plan, project development and implementation and any other matter where the Partnership decides that it would be expedient.
- A1.5 Mendip Hills NL Partnership Committee, 2024
 Somerset Council
 North Somerset Council
 Bath and North-East Somerset Council
 Mendip Hills National Landscape Team
 National Trust
 National Farmers Union
 Country Land & Business Association
 Natural England
 Somerset Wildlife Trust
 Avon Wildlife Trust
 Bath and North-East Somerset Parishes Representative
 North Somerset Parishes Representative
 Somerset Parishes Representative
 Mendip Society
 Campaign to Protect Rural England
 The Trails Trust
- For further information on governance, and activity of the NL Partnership, including annual reviews, and current membership see - www.mendiphills-nl.org.uk
- A1.6 Defra's Core Functions of a National Landscape Team
- A1.6.1 Developing reviewing, preparing and publishing the NL vision and the CRoW Act NL Management Plan.
- A1.6.2 Promoting the NL vision and management plan to help distinguish the NL from adjacent countryside.
- A1.6.3 Advising upon, facilitating and coordinating implementation by others of the Management Plan.
- A1.6.4 Advising Local Authorities on their activities within NLs, to encourage them to go beyond normal levels of service (attain the highest possible standards) in countryside management.
- A1.6.5 Monitoring and reporting on progress against NL Management Plan targets.
- A1.6.6 Monitoring NL landscape condition.
- A1.6.7 Accessing resources for management activities.

- A1.6.8 Working with and contributing to the NL activities, sharing advice and best practice nationally and regionally.
- A1.6.9 Providing a management role to co-ordinate NL protection through the actions of the NL Team, the NL partnership and other partners at a local and strategic level.
- A1.6.10 Developing an involvement by the community in the management of the NL.
- A1.6.11 Providing landscape related planning advice.

Appendix 2 - AONB designation, policy and legal framework

- A2.1 The primary purpose of AONB designation is to 'conserve and enhance natural beauty' but the architects of the 1949 Act recognised other underlying principles which were important aspects of the designations' success. These included the need to maintain a 'thriving community life' with particular emphasis on farming and forestry, and the need to promote understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities by people.
- A2.2 These subsidiary purposes – in effect, qualifications of the primary purpose – are those defined in the Countryside Commission statement 1991, restated in 2006. The basis for the wording of the subsidiary purposes can be found in the Countryside Act 1968 (section 37):
- A2.3 In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries, and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.
- A2.4 Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.
- A2.5 Although AONBs do not currently have the statutory second purpose of National Parks, which is 'to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities [of the area] by the public', the 1949 Act assumed that AONBs would also fulfil this function and this intent is reflected in the subsequent duty placed on AONB conservation boards by Section 87 of the CRoW Act 2000 which adopts the same language.
- A2.6 Responsibility for conservation and enhancement of AONBs: the legal framework
AONBs exist within a legal framework which has been progressively strengthened since the first AONBs came into existence after the Second World War.
- A2.7 The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act made provision for the designation of AONBs and National Parks. It provided AONBs with protection, under planning law, against inappropriate development and gave local authorities permissive powers to take action for 'preserving and enhancing natural beauty'.
- A2.8 The Countryside Act 1968 (Section 37) placed a responsibility on local authorities, statutory conservation bodies, and civil servants, in exercising their functions under the 1949 Act (as amended by subsequent legislation) to 'have due regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas.' Within AONBs this means a responsibility to acknowledge and, where appropriate, to promote farming, forestry and the rural economic and social context wherever this can be done without compromising the primary purpose of conserving natural beauty.

- A2.9 The Environment Act 1995 confirmed replacement of 'preserve and enhance' with 'conserve and enhance' in relation to the purpose of National Parks and duties of public bodies towards them.
- A2.10 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW), amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, subsumed and strengthened the AONB provisions of the 1949 Act. It brought the primary purpose in line with that of National Parks, clarified the procedure for their designation, and created a firm legislative basis for their protection and management, giving responsibility for their conservation and enhancement primarily to local authorities.
- A2.11 Section 82 reaffirms the primary purpose of AONBs: to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- A2.12 Section 83 establishes the procedure for designating or revising the boundaries of an AONB, including Natural England's duty to consult with local authorities and to facilitate public engagement
- A2.13 Section 84 confirms the powers of local authorities to take 'all such action as appears to them expedient' to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of an AONB and sets consultation and advice on development planning and on public access on the same basis as National Parks in the 1949 Act.
- A2.14 Section 85 places a statutory duty on all relevant authorities '...in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land [in an AONB] must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty...'.
- A2.15 Sections 86 to 88 allow for the establishment in an AONB of a Conservation Board to which the AONB functions of the local authority (including development planning) can be transferred. Conservation boards have the additional but secondary function of seeking to increase public understanding and enjoyment of the AONB's special qualities. They also have an obligation to 'seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities' in co-operation with local authorities and other public bodies.
- A2.16 Sections 89 and 90 create a statutory duty on all AONB partnerships (local authorities and Conservation Boards) to prepare a management plan 'which formulates their policy for the management of their area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it', and thereafter to review adopted and published Plans at intervals of not more than five years. Where an AONB involves more than one local authority, they are required to do this 'acting jointly'. Section 90 also sets out that the Secretary of State may by regulations make provision requiring AONB Management Plans to contribute to the meeting of any target set under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Environment Act 2021, and setting out how such a plan must contribute to the meeting of such targets, and setting out how AONB Management Plans must further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.

- A2.17 Section 90A sets out that the Secretary of State may by regulations make provision requiring relevant authorities to contribute to the preparation, implementation or review of AONB Management Plans, and setting out how such a relevant authority may or must do so.
- A2.18 Section 92 makes clear that the conservation of natural beauty includes the conservation of 'flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features.'
- A2.19 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC):
Section 99 formally clarifies in law that the fact that an area consists of or includes land used for agriculture or woodlands, or as a park, or 'any other area whose flora, fauna or physiographical features are partly the product of human intervention in the landscape' does not prevent it from being treated, for legal purposes, 'as being an area of natural beauty (or of outstanding natural beauty).'
- A2.20 Schedule 7 asserts that an AONB joint committee of two or more local authorities, or a conservation board, can constitute a 'designated body' for the performance of functions allocated to Defra.

Appendix 3 - Drivers of Change (additional information)

Defra 25 Year Environment Plan 2018 (25YEP)

The Environment Plan sets out the Defra goals for improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state. It details how the government will work with communities and businesses to do this.

The 25YEP has 10 goals, which have specific targets and commitments as follows:

The environmental goals

Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife

Goal 2: Clean air

Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water

Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides

Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste

Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably

Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change

Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards

Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity

Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment

It is intended that the 25YEP is refreshed every 5 years. The first refresh was published in February 2023: [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023: Executive summary - GOV.UK](#)

Recent key legislation

Environment Act 2021 (UK):

This landmark legislation aims to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, and enhance biodiversity. [It includes legally binding targets for species abundance and mandates the establishment of the Office for Environmental Protection to oversee compliance¹.](#)

Net Zero Strategy (UK):

Published in October 2021, this strategy outlines the UK government's plans to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. [It includes policies for decarbonizing various sectors of the economy².](#)

Important Reports

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports:

These comprehensive assessments provide scientific information on climate change, its impacts, and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies. The reports are crucial for informing global climate policy.

Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) Reports (UK):

[The OEP publishes reports on the progress of environmental improvements in England, holding the government accountable for its environmental commitments³.](#)

Additional Notable Mentions

Paris Agreement: An international treaty that aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with commitments from countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (EU): A plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems across Europe.
These documents and laws play a crucial role in shaping environmental policy and action globally.

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Glossary

Calaminarian grassland - is where the process of succession has been halted due to the toxicity of soils containing high levels of toxic metal ions. These habitats may be semi-natural on naturally exposed deposits, or the result of mining, or from erosion by rivers, sometimes including washed-out mine workings.

Catchment Management Plans - plans to benefit whole water catchment areas by working in partnership with individuals and organisations. Records state of water quality, habitats and species, impacts and issues to be addressed.

CRoW Act - Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - confirmed the significance of NLs. Section 85 places a statutory (legal) duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function in relation to, or affecting land within a National Landscape.
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlifecountryside/cl/index.htm

Ecological Network - an ecological network is a joined-up group of natural and semi-natural habitats which is managed with the objective of maintaining or restoring ecological function, in order to conserve biodiversity. Ecological networks are provided as a response to biodiversity decline and aim to provide a connected collection of refuges for wildlife. These networks are the basic natural infrastructure that will begin to enable biodiversity to recover from recent declines and help to protect socially and economically important ecosystem goods and services.

European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, after the city where the convention was adopted - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European cooperation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape. www.coe.int

Green Infrastructure - is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

Gruffy ground - remains of surface mining.

Habitat Regulations Assessment - The purpose of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to identify any aspects of the emerging Local Plan that would have the potential to cause a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 or European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites), (either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects), and to identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation strategies where such effects were identified.

Karst - Landscape characterised by remarkable surface and underground forms, created as a result of the action of water on permeable limestone.

Landscape Character Assessment - a tool to identify what makes an area unique to aid planning and management of landscapes.

Lidar - a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with laser light and analysing the reflected light. Lidar is popularly known as a technology used to make high resolution maps.

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) - 2011 the government invited local councils and businesses to set up voluntary partnerships to help strengthen local economies, set out local economic priorities. They replaced Regional Development Agencies. The West of England and Heart of the SW cover the Mendip Hills NL.

Local Nature Partnership (LNP) - partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. Setting up LNPs was one of the commitments made in the Natural Environment White Paper 2011. The West of England and the Somerset LNPs cover the Mendip Hills NL.

National Character Area (NCA) - there are 159 NCAs – these areas share similar landscape characteristics and follow natural lines in the landscape. Natural England are producing profiles for each NCA to provide decision making frameworks for the natural environment. NCA 141 and 118 cover the Mendip Hills NL.
www.naturalengland.gov.uk

National Planning Policy Framework 2024 - sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans can provide for housing and other development in a sustainable manner.

Natura 2000 sites - see SACs and SPAs

Nature Improvement Area (NIA) - these are large, discrete areas that, by taking a landscape-scale approach, will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. The partnership will plan and deliver significant improvements for wildlife and people through the sustainable use of natural resources, restoring and creating wildlife habitats, connecting local sites and joining up local action.

National Nature Reserve (NNR) - areas where wildlife comes first – established to protect most important sites of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain. The majority have some form of public access.

Neighbourhood Plan - A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area. In law this is described as a neighbourhood development plan in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) - identified by locally developed criteria, are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land. RIGS are selected in a different way to Earth science SSSIs, which are chosen on a national basis. RIGS are selected on a local or regional basis using four nationally agreed criteria. Nationally important geological sites are protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - the country's best wildlife and geological sites. Many SSSIs are also NNRs.

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) - these are sites of regional nature conservation importance.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - protected sites under the European Community Habitats Directive - forming a network of high quality conservation sites.

Special Protection Area (SPA) - designated under the European Birds Directive because of their importance to birds.

Special Qualities - NLs are designated solely for their landscape qualities, for the purpose of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. Designation under the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act is to secure their permanent protection against development that would damage their special qualities. The NLs special qualities are listed in the NL Management Plan (see section 5.2)

Spring-line Settlements - occur where a ridge of permeable rock lies over impermeable rock and there will be a line of springs where the water emerges along the boundary between the two layers. It sometimes happens that a sequence of 'spring-line' settlements will arise around these water sources, becoming villages.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - the purpose of an SEA is to ensure that land-use plans and programmes, that are likely to have significant effects on the environment are subjected to a strategic level (high and overarching) assessment of options and alternative courses of action during plan preparation in order to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects.

Swallets - also known as sinkhole, doline, swallow hole - a natural depression or hole in the earth's surface. Develop by a variety of methods –collapse, suffusion or solution. Can be 20 metres deep and 100 metres or more in diameter. www.bgs.ac.uk

Appendix 2

Mendip Hills National Landscape Draft Management Plan 2025 – 2030

Report of Consultation

June – July 2025

The table below summarises responses received to public consultation on the draft Mendip Hills National Landscape Management Plan Review Report of consultation carried out in June – July 2025.

The table also indicates our response to each representation, including whether a change to the draft Management Plan is necessary.

Where changes have been recommended, these appear as track changes in the accompanying Management Plan document.

Summary of Comments and MHNL Response

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
Natural England	Overall, the draft MP is well constructed and comprehensive. NE is also legally required to respond at the formal observation stage (expected after sign-off by the Partnership).	Noted.	No change.
	General comments: The MHNL should develop a strategy for balancing recreation with potential impacts on ecologically sensitive habitats. This should be informed by data on levels and location of existing recreational activity	Note and agree. A sustainable recreation strategy is to be prepared form part of the forthcoming Delivery Plan.	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	across the NL, together with information on why people have chosen those locations. - Environmental Land Management Schemes - para 3.2: query whether the link between ELM schemes and the MHNL MP is intended to be formal. - Para 6.1.3.3. – query the evidence for the suggestion that reduced agri-funding for stone wall restoration has resulted in a decline in repairs. Stone wall restoration is one of the capital only grants that up until the end of last year any landowner could apply for at any time.	The intention of this paragraph is to merely acknowledge the importance of ensuring the Management Plan remains aligned to Environmental Land Management Scheme opportunities as they emerge. Agree that there is no clear evidence of a direct correlation between a decline in stone wall repairs and reduced Government funding. The paragraph was intended to highlight the risks in the context of reducing capital funding for stone wall restoration and maintenance.	Minor textual revision to provide clarification. Minor textual revision to provide clarification Costs far outweigh the public funding available
	6.5.4.6. – request clarification if this paragraph relates FiPL only or is an aspiration for other ELM payments? SFI and CS are voluntary schemes open to anyone so there is limited opportunity to influence them through a panel. 4.1.2.1./6.3.3.2: The CSF Farming Scheme now operates across the entire Bristol Avon catchment and no longer has 'Priority' sub-catchments within that area.	It is the intention that the Local Assessment Panel should play a role in guiding ELMs payments. Minor textual amendment required to provide clarification. Noted. Text to be amended accordingly.	Minor revision to clarify aspiration for a wider role for the local Assessment panel. Revise text to reflect updated regional CSF structure.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	- Air and Water Quality – The impacts of air quality/deposition and poor water quality on habitats or wildlife beyond the MHNL boundary are not considered. 6.3.4 – does not mention phosphate run-off which is considered to be a significant issue and of greater concern to water quality in the area. - Section 1.7 – The Defra and NE links don't seem to work but could be those organisations' IT.	The draft Management Plan is concerned with such environmental effects and improvement beyond its boundaries. However, for the avoidance of doubt this could be acknowledged more explicitly in the Plan and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment in Section 7.5. In any event, these matters are to be addressed in more detail through the forthcoming Climate Adaptation Plan to be prepared by 2028. Agree it would be appropriate to acknowledge the relationship of the southern fringes of the MHNL with the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site in the catchment of the River Brue. Agree – links to be updated.	Revise text to make clear that the vision for the Mendip Hills extends to measures beyond the designated boundary. Revise text to include appropriate reference to phosphate run-off and waste water from the Mendip Hills. Update weblinks in the document.
Historic England	Draft MP is comprehensive and well put together. The following comments are offered: Need to recognise the balance between natural forces and human beings as agents that have formed the unique character of the landscape.	The draft Plan does make reference (on pages 25 and 26) to other special qualities including a landscape tracing human settlement dating back 500,000	Amend the document to make the list of Special Qualities clearer and on a single page.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	- References to cultural and built heritage appear to be given reduced prominence compared to existing MP and the emphasis needs to be restored: - The “statement of significance” on p25 diverges somewhat from the original AONB Landscape Assessment (1998). Of the 11 special qualities in the revised Statement of Significance only 4 obliquely refer to human or cultural intervention. All other pertain to the natural environment. - Conversely the original AONB Landscape Assessment (1998) identified 9 qualities, only 4 of which are exclusively natural qualities.	years and a landscape enabling people to experience the SQs through a wide range of pursuits. There are in fact 13 Special Qualities listed in the draft Plan.	
	The inclusion of the MH State of Heritage Report is welcomed but a short summary of the key messages within the body of the MP would be helpful.	Agree	Amend to include appropriate reference.
	Welcome the suggestions set out in the ‘landscape solution’ section that aims to provide more reconstruction, interpretation, dissemination and opportunities for public participation.	Noted.	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	Heritage at Risk Register: Welcome Target 10 but suggest correcting reference of Monuments at Risk Register to "Heritage at Risk Register".	Agree.	Revise document to update references to "Heritage at Risk Register".
	Suggest acknowledging that dual designations are possible (e.g. Scheduled monuments can be locally listed buildings or sit with SSSIs); and the ways in which they work in concert.	Agree.	Amend to include appropriate reference.
	Climate Risks – would be useful to highlight the link between geological/ecological climate risks and heritage climate risks	Agree.	Amend to include appropriate reference.
	Para 6.1.36 - Undesignated heritage assets - would be useful to highlight that some such assets may be considered of national importance as per NPPF paragraph 200 and footnote 68 [sic].	Agree.	Revised document to reflect NPPF paras 213 and footnote 75 (the NPPF was updated in December 2024).
	Might be helpful to include a reference to heritage crime e.g. vulnerability of cave sites to graffiti, ASB, fly-tipping etc. Perhaps engage the caving community in this.	Agree.	Amend to include appropriate reference.
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Drivers of Change: - Key Gaps Identified - Biodiversity Pressures: Needs stronger recognition of biodiversity loss and habitat degradation at all scales (local to	Agree the Management Plan would benefit from clearer wording to better reflect changes in farming practices and the risks of climate change to biodiversity and soil health.	Revise to include appropriate reference.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	global), and how these affect the Mendip Hills National Landscape (NL). - Ash Dieback: Significant impact over the past decade on woodland habitats, species, landscape character, and shading. - Soil Health: Ongoing degradation across the landscape is not sufficiently addressed. - Farming Trends: Shift from many small farms to fewer, larger commercial ones, alongside an ageing farming population, needs more attention.		
	Climate Section – Overall comments: - Support for the integrated approach where climate considerations embedded across all themes. Suggested Changes: - Revise Climate Vision: Make the language more active and ambitious, especially around adaptation as follows: <i>'The vision for Climate positions the National Landscape as important for climate change mitigation and climate resilience by actively implementing proactive adaptation measures through appropriate land management.'</i>	Agree the proposed revision more clearly reflects the ambition.	Revise detailed working of climate vision as suggested.
	Suggest accelerating the timeline for publishing a Climate Adaptation Plan from 2028 to 2026.	Unnecessary as the 2028 deadline is set by Government but, in any event is the latest date by which the Plan must be prepared. Timing of, and progress on the Climate Adaptation Plan for the	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
		Mendip Hills NL will be managed through the Partnership in the coming months.	
	Develop Monitoring Protocols to establish baseline data for climate vulnerability indicators; strengthen Nature-Based Solutions: Be more explicit about opportunities for landscape-scale interventions; and Annual Reviews: Include climate indicators in progress tracking.	These matters are most appropriately for the Climate Adaptation Plan.	No change.
	Would welcome discussion re Climate Vulnerability Assessment (para 7.5.1) to explore alignment of methodology.	Noted and agree.	No change.
	3.6.3 - re. climate change effects on trees: Does this mean that a changing climate might mean native species head north and others arrive from the south?	Broadly yes. The paragraph outlines the threats to tree species and habitats as a result of increased storminess, drought, temperature, rainfall and disease to tree species.	No change.
	4.1.2.3 – Pollination: Suggest reference to ‘species rich grassland;’ rather than flower rich meadows to be more reflective of the range of Mendip’s grasslands.	Agree.	Amend paragraph accordingly.
	4.1.2.4 – Climate regulation and carbon storage: whilst peat is important, healthy soils and nature-rich habitats are also valuable for carbon storage.	Agree.	Amend paragraph accordingly.
	4.1.4.1 Wildlife / biodiversity: Suggest also acknowledging benefits of nature for Mendip communities / health too.	Agree, but this is already acknowledged in the overarching vision of the Management Plan.	No change.
	5.2 Statement of Significance – The Special Qualities of the Mendip Hills NL - Although woodland and limestone grassland (note ‘south facing slopes’ are <i>not</i> the only place with	Noted, but the Special Qualities are intended to be the headline features characterising the significance of the National Landscape. Other key	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	limestone grassland!) are mentioned, there is no mention of other key habitats e.g. valuable neutral, acid, calaminarian and wet grassland or heath etc	habitats are explicitly acknowledged in the relevant sections of the Management Plan.	
	6.0.2 NATURE – biodiversity, geodiversity and natural resources: Oddly worded within a 'vision', which looks to the future? and / or sustainable? This is happening in some cases, but the sentence implies that land use/management/agriculture is <i>continuing</i> to enhance things, which has not necessarily been the case over the last 100 years. Add in: need to stop/restore what has been lost due to intensive agriculture and shift to sustainable long term management practices	Agree.	Amend paragraphs accordingly.
	6.0.3: re. enhancement through agriculture: Many Mendip farmers are doing this; however, many are also not so this doesn't feel like the right balance for the actual situation, with a lot of the landscape under intensive agriculture. Does this need rewording to focus on transformative change, with farmers and land managers supported to shift to more sustainable practices with support of government, policy, funding, communities and consumers.	Agree the wording is not sufficiently clear.	Amend paragraph to better clarify that the vision seeks an increased contribution from agriculture in particular to a range of environmental enhancements.
	6.0.4 PEOPLE – Participation, recreation, access and tourism	When read in the round, it is clear that the vision and associated objectives are around action and removing	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	Need to add 'action' to the title: Vision for People - recreation, access, tourism, participation and action Is this around addressing barriers for people, rather than people? This section could be expanded to focus on priority actions to bring about the change needed for nature, climate, people and place over the 15 years of the vision. The current focus remains on 'what the landscape can do for people' and perhaps should have a slant towards 'what people can do for the landscape (=nature) that supports them'?	barriers for people to access and enjoy the protected landscape. It is also predicated on the principle that enabling access to and understanding of the National Landscape means people are more likely to respect and care for the area. Detailed actions will be set out in the Delivery Plan and related workstreams.	
	Final paragraph - Either reword or add as separate paragraph (or point, as used in 6.7.1) the following: <i>"There is widescale transformative behaviour change within our communities, work and individual lives in the Mendip Hills NL. This is supported by increased understanding of nature, the landscape, the need for change, and the difference we can each make. People feel the relevance and importance of nature and the MHNL to their lives, and are not only acting for nature, climate and landscape, but are doing so visibly, to encourage and enable others to do the same".</i>	As above.	No change.
	Landscape Issues 6.1.3.1:	Agree	Revise text.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	The meaning of the paragraph is unclear – consider re-wording?		
	Landscape Solutions 6.1.4.4: SEO 3: This feels like a long sentence. Could it be broken down? Could also add in benefits of nature-rich landscape for human health, wellbeing etc	This is a direct extract from Natural England's National Character Area (141) Profile for the Mendip Hills.	No change.
	Landscape Solutions 6.3.1.1: The vision for Nature: Should it say where possible Nature-richness/ biodiversity increasing everywhere and then link into the LNRS principals? 30%++ (if until 2040) land in positive management for nature? Focus needs to be on nature recovery - increase nature-richness/ biodiversity everywhere & increase area, connectivity, resilience quality of nature-rich sites = 30%++ (if until 2040) land in positive management for nature	Disagree. The relationship with LNRSs is set out in the document, together with the 30 by 30 principles.	No change.
	Landscape Solutions 6.3.1.4: Nature Overview: second sentence Proposed change: change to “which/but has also had an adverse impact and led to loss, fragmentation and degradation of previously commonplace nature-rich grassland habitats. “? And [third sentence]: <i>And/or change to:</i> Although Mendip supports some of the most species-rich grasslands in the county, they are a rarity, especially when you	Agree – the sentences would benefit from the amendments proposed.	Revise wording.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	consider that these diverse habitats, and the wildflowers and other species that they support, were previously an everywhere-everyday part of the farmed landscape and the lives of local communities. Today, remnant sites continue to be lost or under threat and are generally confined to sites that were historically hard to farm intensively and are under sensitive long-term management.		
	Landscape Solutions 6.3.1.5: Nature Overview: Does this mean/should this be small-leaved lime?	Agree	Revise text.
	Landscape Solutions 6.3.1.7: Nature Overview first sentence: Should add.... for biodiversity.	Agree.	Revise text.
	Landscape Solutions 6.3.1.7: Nature Overview third sentence: Should add.... where sensitively managed.	Agree.	Revise text
	Landscape Solutions 6.3.3: This feels a very significant paragraph that needs more inclusion in the document. Is it possible to have a dedicated 'stronger' section within the document to make clear and outline the loss, threats and challenges to habitats and species.	On balance, the document as a whole reflects the importance of biodiversity, habitats and species, details for which will be expanded upon in in the Delivery Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Plan etc.	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	Landscape Solutions 6.3.3.1: Does this need some rewording: does this mean... damage or loss of 'ancient and secondary woodlands and veteran trees '?	The paragraph is intended to generally note risks to woodlands and ancient and veteran trees.	No change.
	6.4. Nature Objectives Needs to be strengthened to reflect the scale of both the nature and climate crisis and need for action over next 15 years. Focus needs to be on recovery, increase nature-richness/ biodiversity everywhere, increased area, connectivity, resilience, coherence, abundance, quality of nature-rich sites = 30%++ (if until 2040) land in positive management for nature. Objectives and narrative need to match up with the scale and focus of the targets they are aiming to achieve. NA objectives – 'promote' / 'increase awareness' Focus on 'promotion' and 'raising awareness' as the objective in itself – although potentially helpful or necessary, this needs to be in support of additional objectives to support / enable / facilitate and actually <i>deliver</i> meaningful action and bring about positive change towards nature's recovery.	The pressing need for action on nature recovery and on climate change is set out across the Management Plan as a whole. The Plan provides a strategic context for the promotion, enabling and facilitation of practical action. Practical management measures will be set out in the Delivery Plan.	No change.
	6.4 .1 Biodiversity, Geodiversity Natural Resources Objectives: NA 1 Increase the characteristic habitats and species of the Mendip Hills. Need to clarify here. Increase – in area? In quality? In abundance? In resilience? In	The Management Plan objectives are intended to provide a strategic context for action, including increasing habitats and species. It is acknowledged that "increasing" can be achieved in many ways such as increasing size and/or quality, However, these are questions of practical delivery, rather than to be	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	viability/sustainability? In health of population? Or is it just size?	set out in the overall Management Plan.	
	NA2 Promote a landscape scale approach to the conservation and enhancement of ecological networks within and adjoining the NL. Is it only 'promote'? Suggestion: through the MHNL partnership, facilitate / coordinate / deliver / work?	As above.	No change.
	NA3 Increase monitoring and awareness of the biodiversity resource of the Mendip Hills NL so that it is sufficiently understood to continue to guide the successful conservation of the characteristic habitats and species. Change to ...conservation and restoration of the...	Agree	Revise text.
	NA objectives – 'promote' / 'increase awareness' Focus on 'promotion' and 'raising awareness' as the objective in itself – although potentially helpful or necessary, this needs to be in support of additional objectives to support / enable / facilitate and actually <i>deliver</i> meaningful action and bring about positive change towards nature's recovery	Read as a whole, the MP provides the context for facilitate delivery.	No Change.
	6.5.1.1: Climate Theme Vision: As in 6.0.3; we need to talk about stopping declines and restoration as a result of changes in agriculture.	Agree?	Amend paragraph to make clear that the vision seeks an increase in the contribution of

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
			agriculture to a range of environmental enhancements.
	6.5.3.3 - Woodland: Typical Mendip species being ash, the risk of ash dieback or Chalara fraxinea affecting woodland areas is significant, and will require landowners and managers to share information, and monitor impact. Due to the already serious impact of ash dieback Does this instead need updating to current situation with the development of a more strategic plan to support regeneration and recovery of ash-dominated woodlands?	This is a matter for the Delivery Plan and related workstreams.	No change.
	6.7.1 - Vision for People - recreation, access, tourism and participation As for 6.0.4, need to add: 'action': Vision for People - recreation, access, tourism, participation and action	When read in the round, it is clear that the vision and associated objectives are around action and removing barriers for people to access and enjoy the protected landscape.	No change.
	6.7.1.2 - Vision for People - recreation, access, tourism and participation Suggest change of wording to: The area will be accessible, regardless of individual mobility, disability, financial situation or background, including to historically under-represented groups.	Agree.	Amend paragraphs accordingly.
	6.7.1.3 - Vision for People - recreation, access, tourism and participation Odd wording so unsure what this means? As for 6.0.4, could either re-word this point or add separately:	Agree, greater clarity is needed.	Revise text.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	<i>"There is widescale transformative behaviour change within our communities, work and individual lives in the Mendip Hills NL. This is supported by increased understanding of nature, the landscape, the need for change, and the difference we can each make. People feel the relevance and importance of nature and the MHNL to their lives, and are not only acting for nature, climate and landscape, but are doing so visibly, to encourage and enable others to do the same".</i>		
	6.7.1.11 – Landscape Activities Great to have this point in there about what communities are already doing, but would be good to emphasise the potential to support people to take meaningful action for nature/the NL in their lives, work and communities, including through increasing understanding of, and involvement in, management and enhancement of the landscape. Although it is a helpful way of telling the story of why the landscape is special, increasing understanding of a line on a map or name of a partnership seems odd as a key objective in itself.	Agree, but this point is already addressed in this paragraph as well as others e.g. 6.7.1.6	No change.
	6.7.2.1 – Benefits and Opportunities Could this be re-framed – people enjoying something doesn't automatically lead to them doing anything to conserve it? Changing our relationship with the landscape is key – it is not just about it being a place for people to enjoy, or	Agree, but this paragraph sits in the context of the wider Management Plan principles of conservation through understanding.	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	to give people 'opportunities' but offers huge societal nature benefits. It is a beautiful and important natural landscape but has seen widescale loss of biodiversity and increasing threats to its special qualities. This is in turn impacting the functionality of the ecosystems that are essential for a sustainable future for us all. Have a key point in here about rebuilding people's understanding of/relationship with nature and land management, and what needs to change?		
	6.7.3.5 Issues, Impacts and Barriers to Delivery – Recreation Impacts First sentence - should say "occurs". Also include: Fire risk increased – use of BBQs/ irresponsible wild camping etc Interaction of trampling with extreme weather events causing increased damage Dogs – also impact on wildlife – via disturbance/interference/capture/predation of ground nesting birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals etc Dogs – also disturbance to ponds, water bodies and water courses impacts fauna and flora as well as water quality, invasive species etc Litter – impact on wildlife	Agree	Expand paragraph to reflect wider risks.
	6.7.4.5 Solutions and Mitigations - Participation	Agree	Revise text.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	Suggested text: ...to manage, conserve and restore the landscape –alongside restoration this will enable nature to recover, and adapt to climate change, with sustainable agriculture that can support people long term! A shift to sustainable land management at scale?		
	6.8 People objectives PE4 Is more people what's needed? Or more sustainable activities? Replace with 'visit' or 'undertake sustainable outdoor activities in the Mendip Hills, ...' (use = commodity)	Agree in part. It is a desirable aim to support more people to enjoy sustainable outdoor activities in the Mendip Hills for a variety of reasons as set out elsewhere in the Plan. Moreover, not all those people will be "visitors" from outside the area. However, substituting the word "enjoy" for "use" would better reflect the intended objective.	Revise text.
	People objectives PE6 Suggest change to: PE6 Encourage the involvement of local people and the wider community in sustainable management and restoration of the NL. In addition, proposal to expand on PE6 or add as separate objective: Develop and embed a renewed relationship for people within the landscape. Enable and celebrate positive behaviour change in our individual lives, work, communities and decision making that supports a healthy and sustainable future for the landscape, with nature at its heart	Agree that reference to "sustainable" management would be appropriate. However, the suggested text for expansion/addition of objective simply repeats important principles set out elsewhere in the Plan.	Revise text.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
Shail Patel (Independent accessibility consultant)	- The 'People' section, and especially the plans for improving disabled access, is poor being heavily weighted towards Place, Nature and Climate. A vision, strategy and goals/targets are needed. - Background research is needed to include: detailed analysis of baseline, measures such as visitor numbers, revenue, estimated 'damage', benchmarks, budgets and case studies of successes to date.	An access and recreation strategy will form part of the forthcoming Delivery Plan to be prepared within the overall priorities set by the Management Plan.	Revise document to include reference to the inclusion of a recreation and access strategy as part of the forthcoming Delivery Plan.
	- There is an implicit message that visitors cause 'damage' but the most beautiful protected landscapes are becoming biodiversity deserts through over-grazing and by rainfall. - Those with disabilities are very poorly served by the MHNL (perhaps 1% of routes are accessible v 10% population having mobility challenges). Progress is painfully slow on identifying and opening new accessible routes. Suggest: - Develop measurable targets, ring-fenced budgets, a clear action plan for accessible paths and gates, disabled parking, buddy support systems, accessible toilets etc.	An access and recreation strategy will form part of the forthcoming Delivery Plan to be prepared within the overall priorities set by the Management Plan.	Revise document to include reference to the inclusion of a recreation and access strategy as part of the forthcoming Delivery Plan.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	- Publish data on visitor demographics and physical challenges. - Use agri-scheme incentives to promote accessible land stewardship.		
Individual	• Support the promotion of quiet recreation but weekend noise disturbances from motocross events near Westbury Beacon occurs. The operator may be in breach of regulations as infrastructure is left onsite between meets. Suggest close monitoring of the site by Somerset County Council's Planning Department.	The Management Plan identifies the need for appropriate enforcement by relevant organisations including local authorities. The NL team will continue to draw their attention to cases where appropriate.	No change.
Farmer	• Note it's quite a large document. • People section (6.0.4) should include acknowledgement of people who work and live in the NL, not just visitors. It would be good to see how the MP may influence areas such as economic development, planning and services by the statutory bodies who businesses work with. • It is acknowledged that the landscape is largely created by economic activity, we must consider how these same businesses may be able to continue working, in such a way that achieves the aims of the MHPL while allowing them to	Agree that people living and/or working locally are an important part of the National Landscape and are central to its management. The draft Management Plan explicitly acknowledges changes in farming and the rural economy as drivers for change as well as the need to accommodate growth and development. The vision includes supporting the economy, health and wellbeing of our society. The need to benefit business as well as people and wildlife is also set out in the Plan.	No change.

Name/Organisation	Summary of Comments	MHNL Response	Change to Management Plan?
	grow, create employment and enhance the area.		
Resident	- Frome is situated on the Eastern part of the Mendips, but I note there are no areas considered to be NLs. Why is this? - I would have thought Asham Woods, Nunney Brook, Nunney Castle and Rodden Meadow would be of interest. - Would have expected you would want to engage with landowners in developing wildlife corridors. - Also need to develop good cycle routes to enable residents of Somerset to access our lovely areas safely. Suggest bike cages should be available at some specific areas, to encourage those with electric or other expensive bikes to park safely whilst on a visit - Were the Rivers Authority and local civic societies engaged?	The formal boundaries of the NLs are set by Natural England as the statutory body. It is not open for the boundaries to be extended eastwards towards Frome as part of the Management Plan Review. It would be inappropriate to include objectives for places which lie outside the designated boundary of the National Landscape (other than land which forms part of its setting). A wide range of stakeholders and organisations were consulted in early engagement to inform the drafting of the Management Plan.	No change.
Wells City Council	Support the treatment of not only environment, but also tourism, local planning and rurality, all of which directly affect the City.	Noted.	No change.



Mendip Hills
National
Landscape

Addendum to the
State of the
National
Landscape Report
2022

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Acknowledgements

Cover photograph © Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership.

The sources of data are set out with each of our tables and charts.

Summary

Key to trend symbols:



New baseline



Informative data



Condition improving



Condition declining



Not clear

Topic	Notes		Baseline	Trend
Population	7,204 in 2021 (up from 6,762 in 2011)	2011		gain
Ethnicity of resident population	98% of the resident population class as 'white'	2011		stable
Sex of resident population	50.3% female; 49.7% male	2011		stable
General health of the resident population	53% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1% suffer very bad health	2011		stable
Disability status of resident population	Of the 23% who have a long-term health condition, 15% were listed as disabled under the Equality Act (down from 16% for the 2011 equivalent status)	2011		improvement
Households by deprivation dimensions	Between 2011 & 2021, the number of households that were not deprived in any dimension rose from 57% to 59%	2011		less
Employment profile by occupation	- Increase in managerial and senior roles (+4.7%) - Decrease in skilled trades (-2.9%)	2011		-
Employment profile by industry	- Increase in real estate (+1.9%), information (+1.8%) and retail (+1.4%) - Decrease in land management (-2%), manufacturing (-1.9%) & accommodation (-1.9%)	2011		-

Employment status	A 11% swing from residents wanting to work to those not seeking work	2011		-
Access to a car or van	96% of the resident population have access to at least one car or van, up from 95% in 2011	2011		gain
Travel to work	44% of employed residents work from home, up from 16% in 2011 In 2011, 58% of employed residents drove a car to work; this reduced to 48% in 2021	2011		Less travel

Census analysis

Purpose of this document

A State of the Mendip Hills National Landscape Report was published in 2022. The Office for National Statistics undertakes a census every 10 years that gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The last census was in 2021 but some of the small-area data was not available until 2023. Consequently, that report could not compare changes between 2011 and 2021. The 2021 census data is now available, and this report sets out a comparison between the 2021 and 2011 socio-economic returns for the Mendip Hills National Landscape; it replaces the blank tables shown in the appendices of the original State of the Mendip Hills report.

Data considerations

The Office for National Statistics undertakes a census that provides a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics. All information is anonymised, and the actual census records are secure for 100 years. Census data is not cut to the National Landscape boundary. Defra is now releasing social data as a part of Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF), based on the Office for National Statistics Output Area population estimates. They are to be the baseline for the National Landscape¹. Output Areas are the lowest level of geographical area for census statistics. These are allocated on a 'best fit' basis. Being a 'best fit' model means that the census presentations are estimates of the likely position. In addition, Defra then rounds up or down to the nearest 100 in the PLTOF data sets.

To show the changes between the 2011 and 2021 Census, we use the same (or equivalent) OAs. However, to make the comparison more accurate, we use the ONS population numbers without the rounding adjustment. We have carefully plotted the data sets for 2011 and 2021 to ensure that the same area of land is reported.

The ONS also warn that where there are small sample sizes, it swaps records between different geographic areas, and adjusts counts by small amounts, to protect against disclosure of personal information. The official Census figures are also estimates because there is not a 100% response (Maximising the quality of Census 2021 population estimates - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)).

As the data are estimates, we do not show the numeric values recorded in the census in our analysis, rather, we use the percentage scores for each topic. The numeric values are listed in the appendices but without analysis.

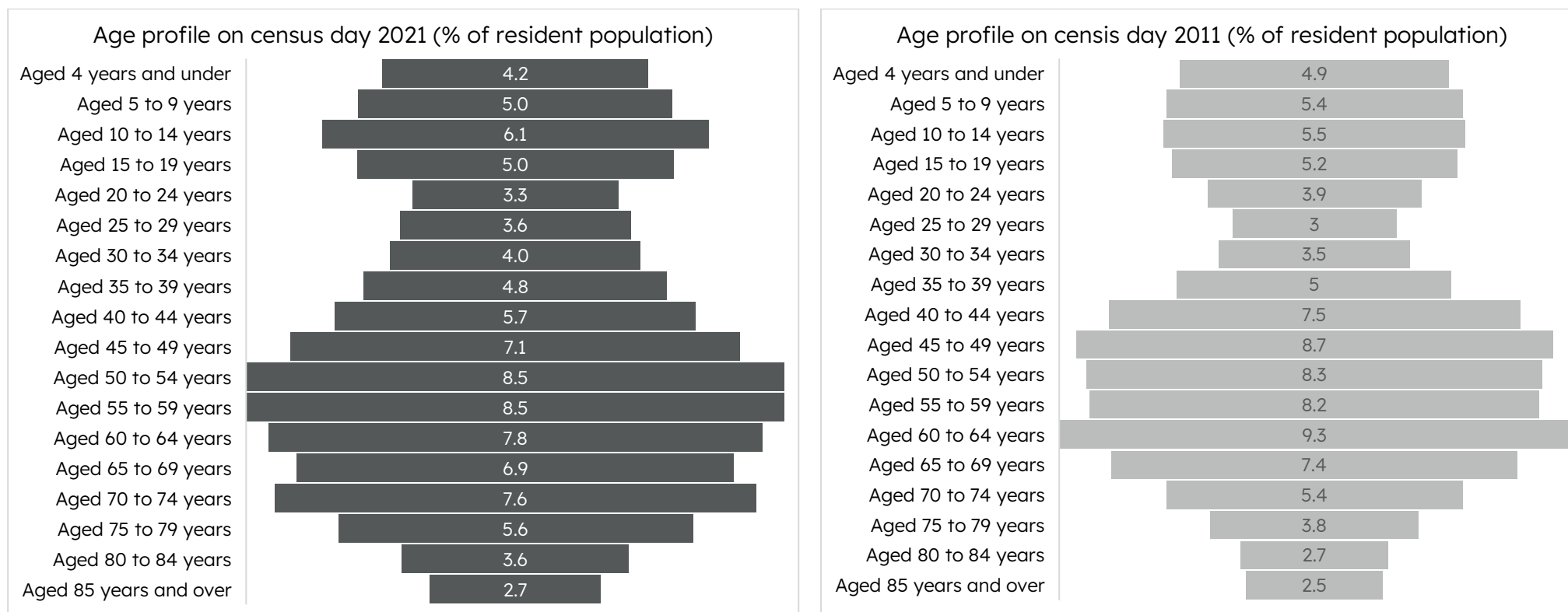
Where we report material from Defra's PLTOF data sets, the numbers are those provided by Defra and these are based on their rounded values.

¹ In the 2022 State of the Mendip Hills Report, the census data was reported at the parish level. Defra stated that the output area data is to be the norm.

Age by five-year age bands

The estimated total population on census day 2021 for the National Landscape was **7,204** (up from **6,762** in 2011). PLTOF shows that in 2021, the average age in the National Landscape as **46** (41 in England).

Note: In the PLTOF data set, the estimated total population on census day 2021 for the National Landscape was 15,500. This is a doubling of the census values and suggests an error across the PLTOF Mendip Hills data set (other National Landscape PLTOF data sets do match the census values).

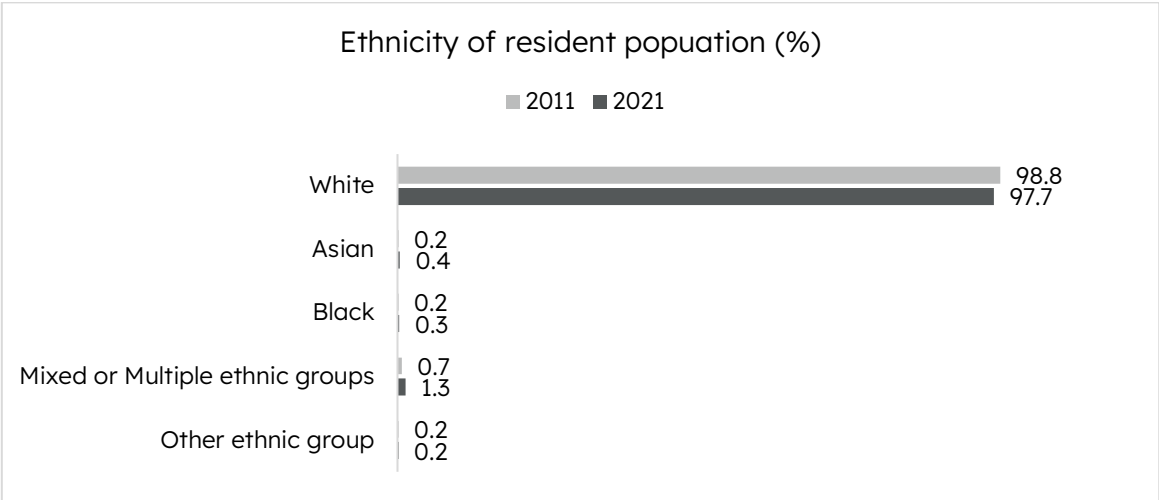


Population numbers have risen by about 5.6% since 2011 (6762 to 7206). The number of people over the age of 60 has risen by 3% to 34% of the population. The number of people under the age of 20 has remained the same at 20.5%. The number of people aged between 20 and 60 has fallen by 2% to 46%. The working age population has declined and retired numbers has risen.

Source: Based on allocation of Output Areas, Census 2021. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Tables 2011: QS103EW, 2021: TS007A

Ethnicity and sex of resident population

There has been little change in either ethnicity or sex between 2011 and 2021. In 2021, around 98% of the resident population class as ‘white’ and just over 50% of the population is female.



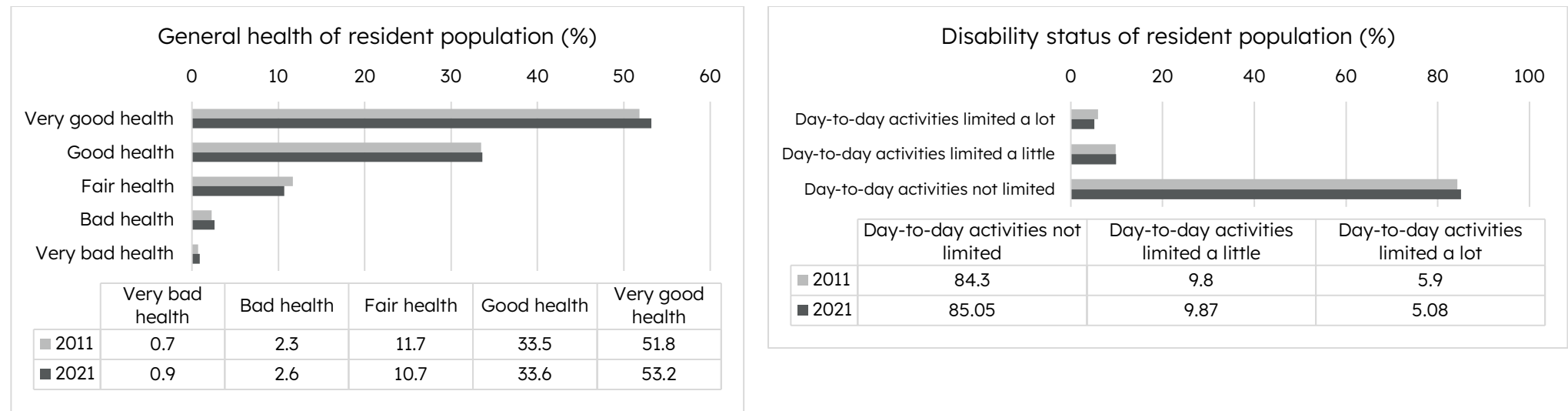
Sex of resident population

	2011	2021
Female	50.6%	50.3%
Male	49.4%	49.7%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Tables 2011: QKS104EW & QS201EW, 2021: TS008 & TS021

General health and disability status of resident population

In 2021, 53.2% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1% suffer very bad health. There is no material difference with the 2011 data. In 2021, 77.3% of the resident population suffered no long-term health conditions. Of the 22.7% who did have a long-term health condition, 15% were listed as disabled under the Equality Act.



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Tables 2011: KS301EW, QS302EW, 2021: TS037 & TS038

Relative wealth of the resident population

From PLTOF data, the average earnings per month were £2,500 in 2021. For rural areas in England, it was £2,300.

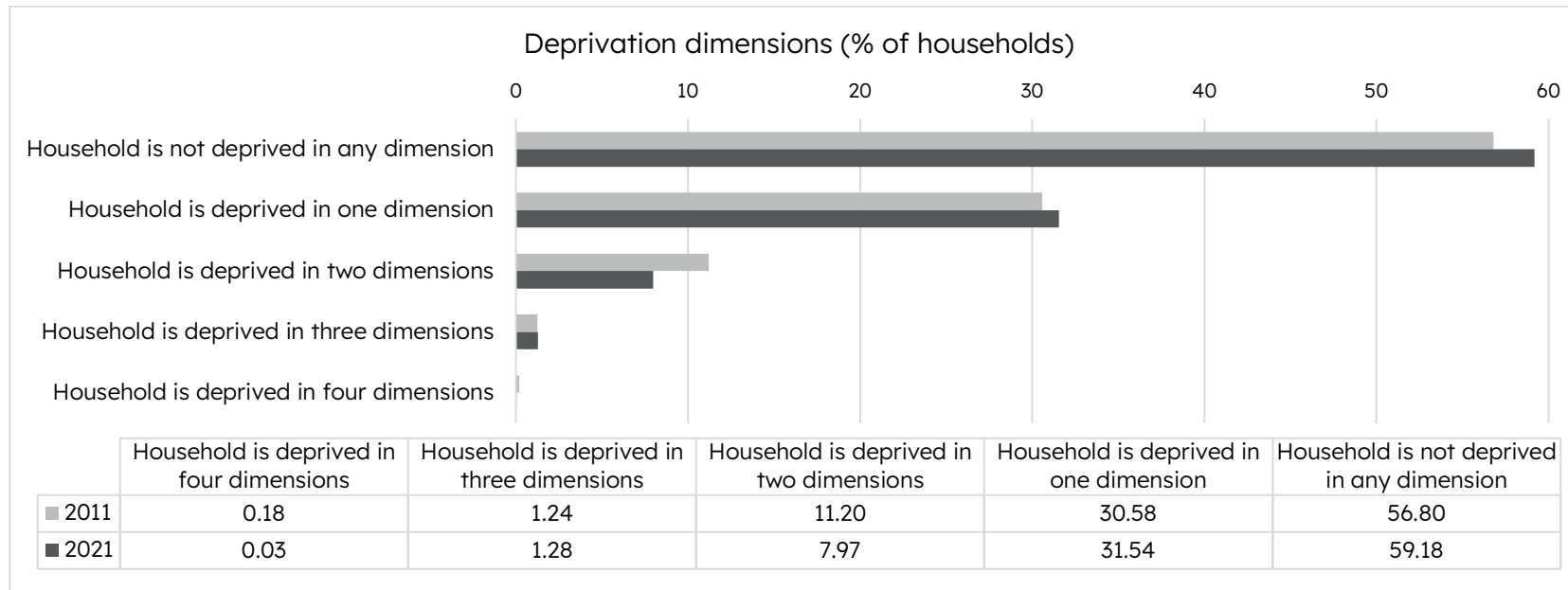
Dividing house prices by annual earnings creates a housing affordability ratio. In 2023, the National Landscape house-price affordability ratio was 10 (the average for all the National Landscapes was 11). This means that full-time employees could expect to spend 10 times their earnings on purchasing a home in the National Landscape. Full-time employees in rural England could also expect to spend around 9 times their annual earnings buying a home, making the National Landscape a less affordable area.

Source: Based on apportioning of Middle-layer Super Output Areas, Census 2021. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

Note: There is an error in the Defra data set that may affect this value.

Households by deprivation dimensions

In 2021, 60% of households were not deprived in any dimension.



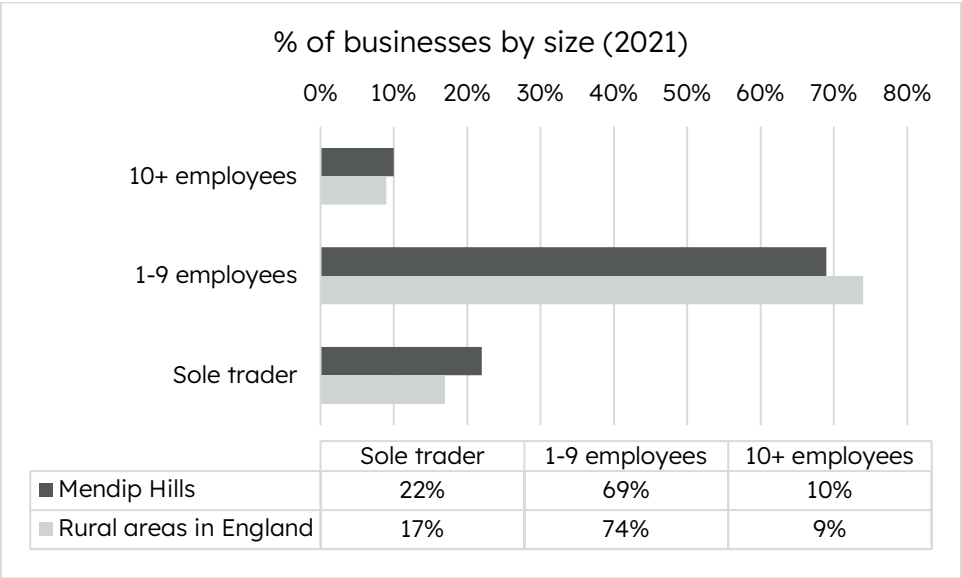
The Indices of Deprivation provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different fields of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education
- Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Tables 2011: QS119EW, 2021: TS011

Proportion of total registered businesses by size band (2021)

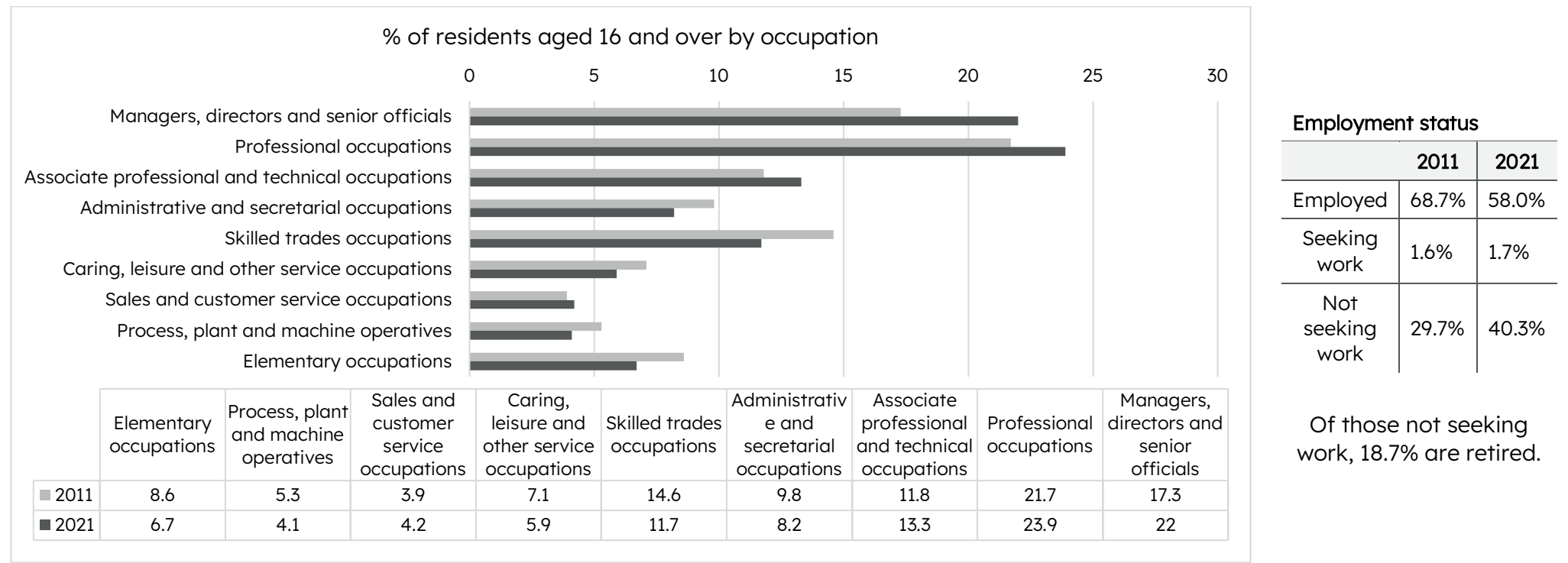
From PLTOF data, there are 1,135 business units registered within the national landscape. Most businesses employ less than 10 people (90% of total registered businesses). 22% of the businesses are sole traders, 5% greater than the average for rural areas in England (17%).



Source: PLTOF Based on allocation of Output Areas.

Occupation and employment status

Between 2011 & 2021: there has been a 11% swing from those residents wanting to work to those not seeking work, perhaps reflecting the increasing retired population. The spread of occupations has shifted from the skilled trades towards managerial and professional roles.

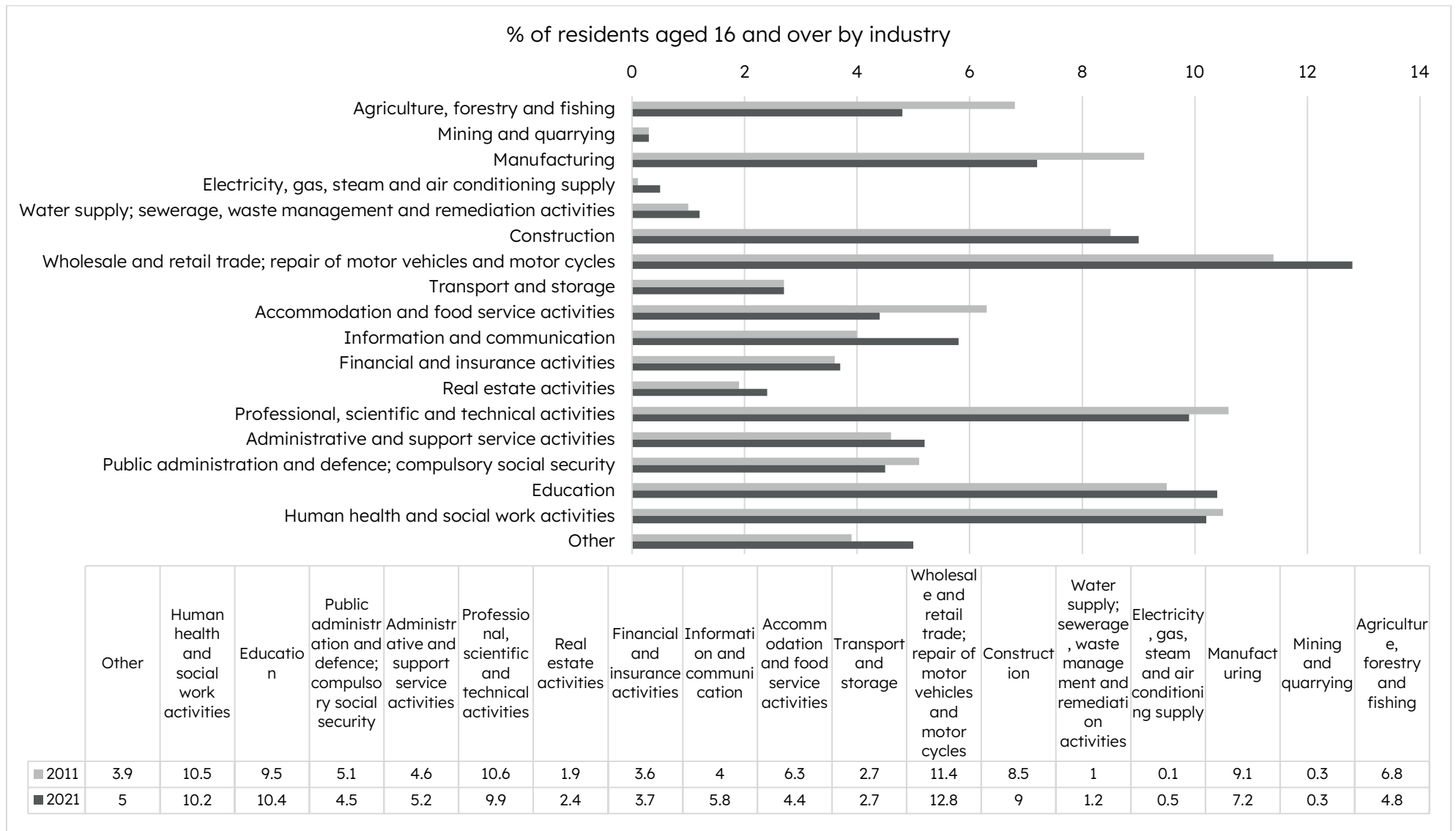


Occupation			
% increase		% decrease	
Managerial and senior roles	+4.7%	skilled trades	-2.9%
Professional occupations	+2.2%	Elementary occupations	-1.9%
Associate professional and technical occupations	+1.5%	Administrative and secretarial occupations	-1.6%
Sales and customer service occupations	+0.3%	Caring, leisure and other service occupations	-1.2%
		Process, plant and machine operatives	-1.2%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Tables 2011: KS601EW to KS603EW & KS608EW to KS610EW, 2021: TS063 & TS066

Industry

Between 2011 & 2021: industries are generally similar but with small increases in communication, retail and real estate activities. There has been a decrease in land management, manufacturing and tourism activities.



Industry

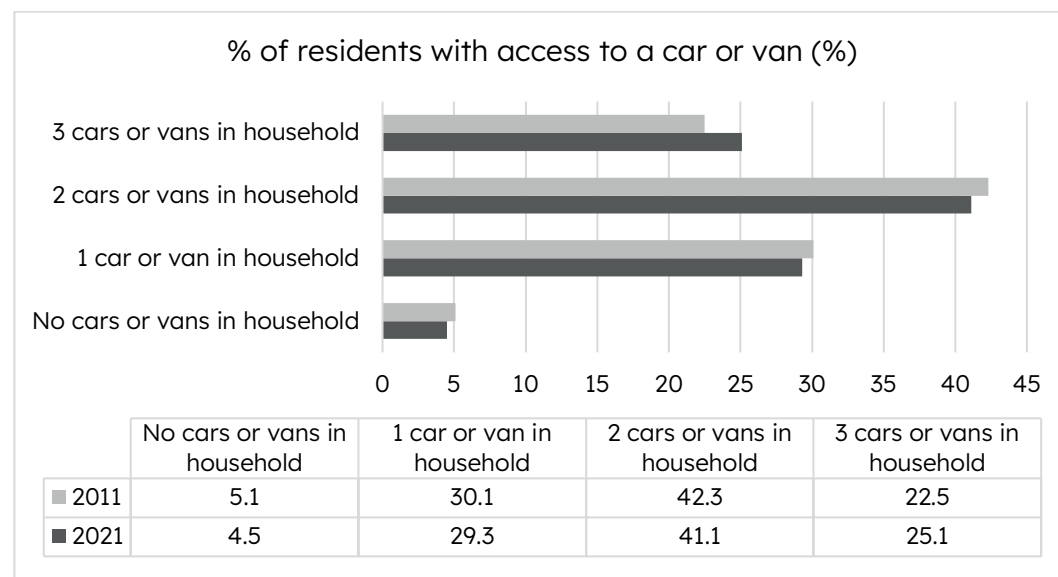
increase greater than 1%		decrease greater than 1%	
Real estate activities	+1.9%	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-2%
Information and communication	+1.8%	Manufacturing	-1.9%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	+1.4%	Accommodation and food service activities	-1.9%
Other*	+1.1%		

*Other includes arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities; activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods-and services-producing activities of households for own use; activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Tables 2011: KS605EW to KS607EW, 2021: TSO60A

Car or van availability

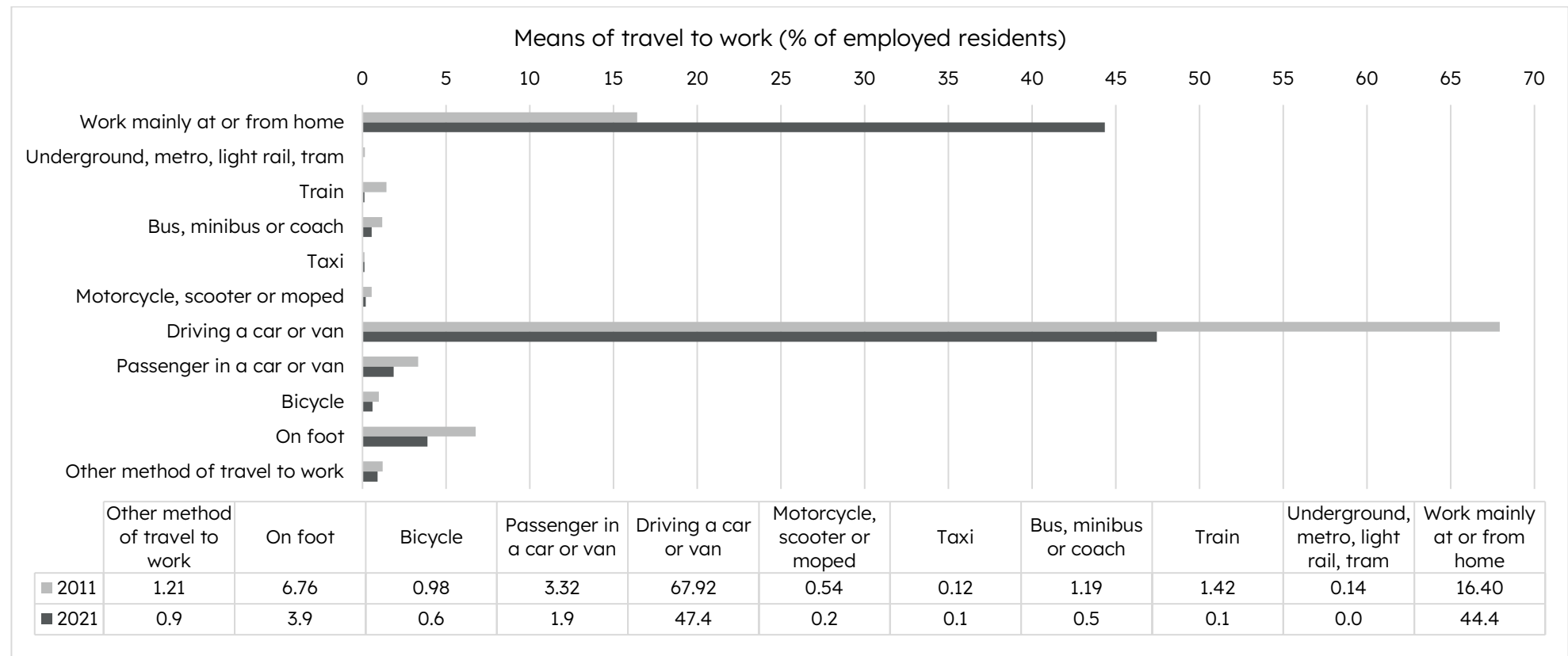
In 2021, 95.5% of the resident population had access to at least one car or van (95% in 2011).



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Table 2011: QS416EW, Table 2021: TS045

Means of travel to work

In 2021, 44% of employed residents worked from home, up from 28% in 2011. In 2011, 68% of employed residents drove a car to work; this reduced to 47% in 2021.



The most striking change between 2011 and 2021 is the significant increase in the number of people working mainly at or from their home, a 28% increase. Consequently, the use of all forms of transport has fallen.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis August 2025] Table 2011: QS701EW, 2021: TS061

Appendices: Raw census data 2011 & 2021

Census data is not cut to the National Landscape boundary. Defra is now releasing social data based on the Office for National Statistics Output Area population estimates. Output Areas (OAs) are the lowest level of geographical area for census statistics. These are allocated to the national landscape on a 'best fit' basis, and they are to be the baseline for the National Landscape.

Appendix 1: Census Output Areas for 2021 and 2011

Local Authority area	Output Areas
Bath & North East Somerset	E00072647 E00072649 E00072650 E00072656 E00072834 E00072835 E00072837
Mendip	E00147973 E00147974 E00147975 E00147977 E00148002 E00148003 E00148010
North Somerset	E00074468 E00074475 E00074489 E00074490 E00074491 E00074492 E00074493 E00074494 E00074609
Sedgemoor	E00148141 E00148366



Source: GIS data obtained from www.data.gov.uk

Appendix 2: List of census tables

List of tables downloaded from Nomis between 7th and 11th of August 2025

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?opt=3&theme=&subgrp=>

2021	2011
TS001 - Number of usual residents	KS101EW - Usual resident population
TS007A - Age by five-year age bands	QS103EW - Age by single year
TS008 - Sex	QS104EW - Sex
TS011 - Households by deprivation dimensions	QS119EW - Households by deprivation dimensions
TS021 - Ethnic group	KS201EW - Ethnic group
TS037 - General health	QS302EW - General health
TS038 - Disability	KS301EW - Health and provision of unpaid care
TS045 - Car or van availability	QS416EW - Car or van availability
TS058 - Distance travelled to work	QS702EW - Distance travelled to work
TS060A - Industry	KS605EW to KS607EW - Industry
TS061 - Method used to travel to work	QS701EW - Method of travel to work
TS063 - Occupation	KS608EW to KS610EW - Occupation
TS066 - Economic activity status	KS601EW to KS603EW - Economic activity

The ONS warn that where there are small sample sizes, it swaps records between different geographic areas, and adjusts counts by small amounts, to protect against disclosure of personal information. The official Census figures are also estimates because there is not a 100% response (Maximising the quality of Census 2021 population estimates - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)).

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Appendix 1: Number of usual residents

(all usual residents)

Output area	Census table 2021: TS001 N° of usual residents	Census table 2011: KS101EW usual resident population
E00072647	207	215
E00072649	302	277
E00072650	252	231
E00072656	364	331
E00072834	368	327
E00072835	300	317
E00072837	532	439
E00147973	336	322
E00147974	236	263
E00147975	227	240
E00147977	398	340
E00148002	345	327
E00148003	330	297
E00148010	307	324
E00074468	216	192
E00074475	148	171
E00074489	128	115
E00074490	277	298
E00074491	212	206
E00074492	371	323
E00074493	196	174
E00074494	275	237
E00074609	201	179
E00148141	333	283
E00148366	343	334

Appendix 4: Age profile

(all usual residents)

Census table 2021: TS007A age by five-year age bands

output area	Total persons	Aged 4 years and under	Aged 5 to 9 years	Aged 10 to 14 years	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 24 years	Aged 25 to 29 years	Aged 30 to 34 years	Aged 35 to 39 years	Aged 40 to 44 years	Aged 45 to 49 years	Aged 50 to 54 years	Aged 55 to 59 years	Aged 60 to 64 years	Aged 65 to 69 years	Aged 70 to 74 years	Aged 75 to 79 years	Aged 80 to 84 years	Aged 85 years and over
E00072647	209	7	10	20	13	13	4	10	11	10	15	20	19	18	11	16	9	3	0
E00072649	304	16	16	26	12	13	10	11	21	20	28	21	17	22	16	18	19	11	7
E00072650	252	6	17	19	13	9	4	8	17	17	19	19	19	16	18	12	18	11	10
E00072656	370	26	27	16	18	12	13	5	29	26	22	21	27	22	23	41	22	11	9
E00072834	367	26	26	26	22	9	6	5	14	26	23	25	36	34	25	33	17	9	5
E00072835	299	21	10	15	7	5	5	21	21	12	15	16	30	34	30	23	13	15	6
E00072837	531	21	26	29	22	32	30	24	25	28	22	49	46	48	36	30	31	21	11
E00147973	336	11	19	20	23	14	15	28	8	13	29	39	24	17	26	21	13	9	7
E00147974	237	3	4	21	11	10	6	8	7	12	18	19	27	22	24	15	18	8	4
E00147975	229	5	8	13	15	6	11	4	4	12	18	27	17	20	23	18	14	7	7
E00147977	398	12	12	24	15	20	14	19	17	23	27	46	33	36	27	24	20	18	11
E00148002	342	9	17	17	33	11	12	24	11	21	31	21	32	25	26	18	9	19	6
E00148003	328	13	10	21	18	11	15	10	11	20	28	27	27	32	25	20	20	14	6
E00148010	303	5	13	13	15	8	13	10	17	17	25	36	32	22	19	20	15	13	10
E00074468	215	14	7	10	8	7	10	8	9	8	20	24	19	21	13	15	17	5	0
E00074475	146	4	4	3	3	1	11	5	6	8	5	9	9	8	15	9	11	17	18
E00074489	129	6	6	7	6	8	4	5	7	9	7	12	9	13	7	10	8	1	4
E00074490	279	13	13	14	12	9	6	11	14	18	12	21	31	24	19	22	22	6	12
E00074491	210	15	13	10	10	0	10	10	12	16	11	14	25	8	6	24	14	7	5
E00074492	372	18	18	29	17	14	10	20	14	29	27	34	30	20	19	34	16	15	8
E00074493	196	10	16	12	16	2	6	8	10	16	17	8	13	9	10	22	10	6	5
E00074494	276	9	15	30	21	11	14	10	12	9	31	23	19	19	16	16	13	4	4

E00074609	203	9	10	6	5	3	8	5	12	8	13	18	20	21	16	21	16	6	6
E00148141	330	10	27	21	17	9	11	9	15	14	24	34	34	24	20	31	14	9	7
E00148366	345	15	20	26	12	9	6	16	22	22	24	33	19	28	26	25	15	15	12

Census table 2011: QS103EW age by single year

output area	E00072647	E00072649	E00072650	E00072656	E00072834	E00072835	E00072837	E00147973	E00147974	E00147975	E00147977	E00148002	E00148003	E00148010	E00074468	E00074475	E00074489	E00074490	E00074491	E00074492	E00074493	E00074494	E00074609	E00148141	E00148366
All	215	277	231	331	327	317	439	322	263	240	340	327	297	324	192	171	115	298	206	323	174	237	179	283	334
Age under 1	3	5	2	2	2	3	8	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	1	0	1	4	3	1	3	1	1	0	3
Age under 1	3	5	2	2	2	3	8	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	1	0	1	4	3	1	3	1	1	0	3
Age 1	2	1	2	1	3	0	3	3	3	1	1	6	3	4	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	1	1	1	4
Age 2	5	3	3	2	2	6	4	3	1	4	2	5	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	6	3	5	0	1	5
Age 3	2	4	1	3	3	3	2	2	6	5	5	3	6	6	2	1	1	2	4	5	2	1	1	1	5
Age 4	6	4	0	4	4	3	11	3	5	2	4	6	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	6	1	1	2
Age 5	0	0	3	4	5	2	2	6	0	6	2	2	5	0	2	1	1	3	2	4	0	7	0	2	1
Age 6	7	0	0	3	1	2	3	5	5	4	2	5	3	8	2	1	0	3	2	2	4	6	0	0	3
Age 7	2	2	1	4	7	1	4	3	4	6	5	8	2	5	1	0	0	3	2	4	5	4	0	0	3
Age 8	3	1	5	7	6	4	3	2	2	0	2	4	4	1	3	0	1	5	4	4	2	2	2	3	3
Age 9	2	4	4	7	5	5	3	3	4	4	3	8	3	7	4	0	1	1	1	6	2	2	0	3	3
Age 10	4	3	5	2	2	1	9	3	2	3	2	6	4	2	1	2	0	1	0	4	2	2	0	3	4
Age 11	2	1	1	2	12	6	4	7	3	4	2	3	2	8	2	0	2	2	1	5	3	1	1	5	4
Age 12	2	4	3	5	4	1	6	5	2	5	4	5	1	7	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	3	1	1	2
Age 13	0	9	1	6	3	5	8	0	2	3	7	3	2	1	1	1	1	5	2	5	1	1	2	2	2
Age 14	3	5	2	5	2	3	6	4	3	2	4	4	7	4	3	1	2	4	1	4	1	3	3	2	2
Age 15	0	4	1	5	3	4	5	6	2	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	6	2	2	2	0	1	1	1
Age 16	4	2	2	8	5	4	2	4	3	5	7	1	5	2	3	1	0	6	2	7	0	2	5	3	3
Age 17	4	5	3	3	3	9	6	3	4	2	8	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	5	4	1	7	0	4	5
Age 18	3	4	2	4	2	3	2	4	5	1	2	1	4	6	2	1	2	4	1	1	0	0	3	2	6
Age 19	3	2	1	3	0	6	6	5	4	0	2	1	0	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	3	2

Age 20	5	2	0	1	1	5	2	3	3	0	2	5	0	3	1	1	0	3	5	3	0	1	4	1	3
Age 21	2	2	1	4	1	1	3	6	3	3	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	6
Age 22	3	1	3	1	0	4	5	2	3	2	2	4	2	5	1	4	0	2	0	1	3	2	2	3	6
Age 23	4	1	2	3	3	0	1	2	3	0	3	4	3	3	3	0	0	5	2	1	1	2	0	2	5
Age 24	0	4	1	1	0	4	5	1	1	1	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	2	1	2	5
Age 25	1	1	1	3	2	2	6	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	1	2	1	3	6
Age 26	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	7	5	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	4
Age 27	3	2	4	1	0	1	5	0	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
Age 28	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	0	1	2	0	4	1	1	1	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Age 29	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	3	3	1	1	1	0	4	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	4
Age 30	0	1	1	1	1	4	3	2	1	0	1	4	5	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	4	0	1	1	2
Age 31	2	1	3	1	4	2	2	0	2	0	1	4	2	3	2	1	3	3	0	3	3	2	3	2	1
Age 32	3	1	0	1	2	0	6	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	1	1	0	3	4
Age 33	0	1	4	2	3	1	4	3	2	1	4	5	0	5	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	2	3	0	2
Age 34	2	3	4	2	1	1	3	4	3	5	5	3	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	3	6	1	0	1	0
Age 35	1	1	3	0	2	2	3	1	5	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	0	5	3	1	1	2	2	3	1
Age 36	1	6	3	1	2	2	5	11	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	3	1	0	2
Age 37	1	5	1	3	5	2	2	3	3	1	3	5	4	6	3	1	2	3	2	3	1	3	2	3	2
Age 38	2	9	4	2	5	2	0	4	3	3	4	3	7	5	5	2	4	4	3	2	2	6	0	4	6
Age 39	2	2	2	5	5	1	8	5	1	2	2	4	4	4	1	1	1	2	3	5	0	4	0	4	6
Age 40	3	0	3	5	1	3	1	9	6	4	3	6	2	3	0	1	0	2	2	6	4	2	2	4	9
Age 41	5	1	3	9	3	3	9	3	4	4	3	7	2	11	2	2	2	3	4	4	2	3	1	4	3
Age 42	8	2	5	5	11	1	5	2	5	5	1	1	4	5	4	0	0	6	3	4	2	4	0	6	8
Age 43	6	4	4	3	6	7	8	5	5	6	6	8	2	9	2	2	0	3	2	4	3	5	3	4	7
Age 44	2	6	6	1	8	3	9	9	4	6	8	3	3	8	9	3	4	5	3	3	1	3	8	2	0
Age 45	3	4	3	6	7	7	10	3	3	1	3	10	4	8	4	1	2	8	0	9	3	3	1	5	4
Age 46	2	4	3	5	7	8	7	5	6	3	6	7	5	8	3	0	2	4	5	4	2	3	1	8	2
Age 47	5	4	5	9	4	6	7	5	6	5	8	4	3	5	3	0	0	9	5	7	5	4	8	4	3
Age 48	2	7	1	7	4	9	7	10	4	2	7	8	5	3	3	0	3	9	4	8	2	5	4	8	4
Age 49	8	1	4	7	5	7	6	6	2	4	9	3	7	1	0	4	1	6	5	11	2	1	3	8	5
Age 50	2	9	3	2	2	7	7	6	8	5	7	7	2	2	4	1	0	8	6	4	1	1	5	3	2
Age 51	9	3	1	10	2	7	10	0	3	3	7	3	5	7	3	3	0	1	2	3	2	4	1	8	8
Age 52	4	8	4	1	5	5	9	4	5	6	4	7	12	5	4	5	2	4	3	3	4	4	1	10	11

Age 53	5	4	2	7	5	14	9	6	4	4	7	6	6	2	3	2	1	3	1	5	3	2	2	7	4
Age 54	3	5	5	1	7	6	9	8	3	4	7	3	4	3	3	4	4	7	2	4	2	6	1	3	3
Age 55	3	1	7	5	6	6	10	5	6	2	11	3	3	4	4	1	0	10	4	0	2	3	2	4	4
Age 56	5	5	3	5	9	9	5	7	1	3	8	4	7	5	5	1	3	4	4	7	2	3	4	7	10
Age 57	2	3	2	5	4	10	7	5	6	6	3	2	2	4	1	4	2	5	3	10	0	4	2	5	4
Age 58	1	5	6	6	6	6	9	6	0	5	5	3	10	1	4	3	3	4	1	5	3	4	4	6	7
Age 59	1	1	1	5	6	3	10	3	6	3	5	10	10	6	2	3	3	3	1	3	2	7	2	6	4
Age 60	6	6	1	4	5	4	6	3	4	3	3	3	4	8	2	4	3	3	3	7	3	8	4	6	1
Age 61	4	2	1	8	5	8	9	8	4	2	6	5	14	4	5	1	3	6	4	10	1	5	8	8	2
Age 62	2	5	4	7	8	3	5	4	4	8	6	6	2	4	6	0	1	6	9	4	4	3	6	2	9
Age 63	2	1	3	4	3	3	8	5	4	5	7	6	6	5	7	2	5	8	3	7	4	5	4	5	8
Age 64	2	9	5	19	15	3	5	8	7	3	6	3	9	7	5	3	6	1	4	8	2	3	5	10	7
Age 65	3	3	4	6	1	2	2	4	2	3	6	4	7	10	4	1	2	5	6	9	3	4	2	2	5
Age 66	2	4	1	3	6	6	6	5	4	5	8	1	4	2	8	1	4	2	3	3	1	9	5	5	8
Age 67	4	9	6	9	7	3	6	4	1	6	3	2	4	4	3	1	3	6	4	4	6	7	6	8	7
Age 68	1	6	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	2	3	4	4	4	0	3	2	7	3	4	1	1	2	3	6
Age 69	2	3	5	2	5	4	11	5	2	1	1	7	4	2	5	1	4	6	0	4	1	6	3	3	5
Age 70	1	4	3	5	3	4	8	5	4	1	5	6	6	2	2	5	1	2	1	4	3	6	5	1	4
Age 71	1	3	7	3	3	2	7	1	2	0	9	6	4	3	3	3	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	8
Age 72	1	0	2	4	4	3	4	3	0	4	4	2	1	2	1	3	1	4	2	4	1	2	2	3	0
Age 73	1	4	2	5	4	2	2	3	1	1	6	8	3	2	0	5	1	2	4	7	1	1	0	2	0
Age 74	3	3	2	3	6	1	5	2	3	1	5	2	2	3	8	3	0	4	4	4	2	1	1	5	2
Age 75	1	1	1	1	4	1	3	5	1	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	0	3	4	4	4	1	1	2	7
Age 76	0	1	6	3	0	2	4	4	1	1	3	3	1	4	1	0	0	6	3	1	2	1	3	3	3
Age 77	2	1	1	0	2	3	3	0	0	1	3	3	1	4	1	2	0	4	1	1	3	1	5	2	0
Age 78	1	1	2	4	4	3	4	1	3	4	1	1	1	4	2	3	2	3	0	2	3	1	1	2	2
Age 79	2	3	6	2	2	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	5	0	3	1	2	2	1	0
Age 80	0	4	1	2	3	2	3	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	7	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	4
Age 81	0	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	4	1	2	0	1	3	2	3	1	1	0	4	1	1	1	0	2
Age 82	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	3	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	4	1
Age 83	1	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	3
Age 84	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	5	2	4	2	3	0	1	3	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Age 85	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0

Age 86	0	2	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0
Age 87	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	6	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Age 88	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	3	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	2	0
Age 89	0	3	0	4	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Age 90	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Age 91	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Age 92	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Age 93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Age 94	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 95	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 97	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 99	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 100 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix 5: Sex

(all usual residents)

Census table 2021: TS008 sex			Census table 2011: QS104EW sex	
output area	Female	Male	Males	Females
E00072647	106	103	106	109
E00072649	159	143	130	147
E00072650	136	117	111	120
E00072656	182	183	161	170
E00072834	186	182	158	169
E00072835	147	153	162	155
E00072837	270	260	218	221
E00147973	167	169	165	157
E00147974	117	117	133	130
E00147975	119	109	120	120
E00147977	179	219	178	162
E00148002	166	177	163	164
E00148003	169	161	145	152
E00148010	154	153	159	165
E00074468	106	108	96	96
E00074475	71	78	78	93
E00074489	66	62	60	55
E00074490	146	131	142	156
E00074491	106	106	98	108
E00074492	195	176	155	168
E00074493	103	93	85	89
E00074494	134	139	116	121
E00074609	96	105	90	89
E00148141	176	157	138	145
E00148366	165	178	172	162

Appendix 6: All households by deprivation measures

output area	All households	Household is not deprived in any dimension	Household is deprived in 1 dimension	Household is deprived in 2 dimensions	Household is deprived in 3 dimensions	Household is deprived in 4 dimensions
Census table 2021: TS011 households by deprivation measures						
E00072647	70	46	23	0	1	0
E00072649	118	78	32	7	1	0
E00072650	106	53	35	15	3	0
E00072656	144	90	49	5	0	0
E00072834	147	86	46	13	2	0
E00072835	128	77	40	8	3	0
E00072837	214	121	70	21	2	0
E00147973	123	65	47	11	0	0
E00147974	101	60	33	5	3	0
E00147975	92	62	24	6	0	0
E00147977	151	80	61	10	0	0
E00148002	127	70	39	17	1	0
E00148003	136	79	48	8	0	1
E00148010	153	89	54	9	1	0
E00074468	85	43	34	5	3	0
E00074475	50	33	13	4	0	0
E00074489	50	32	13	4	1	0
E00074490	125	81	32	10	2	0
E00074491	93	72	15	5	1	0
E00074492	147	92	42	13	0	0
E00074493	88	37	29	18	4	0
E00074494	102	60	34	7	1	0
E00074609	83	42	29	11	1	0
E00148141	129	78	39	11	1	0
E00148366	133	78	45	7	3	0

Census table 2011: QS119EW households by deprivation measures

E00072647	71	46	18	5	1	1
E00072649	113	67	34	11	1	0
E00072650	101	47	32	20	2	0
E00072656	134	86	36	12	0	0
E00072834	141	81	40	16	4	0
E00072835	126	61	47	18	0	0
E00072837	185	101	49	30	5	0
E00147973	125	69	36	19	1	0
E00147974	94	57	27	8	2	0
E00147975	94	55	30	9	0	0
E00147977	139	73	45	18	3	0
E00148002	120	66	39	14	1	0
E00148003	118	61	41	13	2	1
E00148010	143	78	46	17	2	0
E00074468	80	46	27	6	1	0
E00074475	52	25	22	3	1	1
E00074489	55	30	21	4	0	0
E00074490	129	76	38	13	2	0
E00074491	92	61	25	6	0	0
E00074492	137	77	42	15	3	0
E00074493	82	36	21	21	2	2
E00074494	92	58	27	7	0	0
E00074609	74	41	29	4	0	0
E00148141	124	78	34	11	1	0
E00148366	129	86	35	8	0	0

Appendix 7: Ethnic group

(all usual residents)

Census table 2021: TS021 ethnic group

output area	All persons	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group
E00072647	208	0	1	1	205	1
E00072649	302	1	0	5	295	1
E00072650	252	2	0	4	246	0
E00072656	365	0	1	10	354	0
E00072834	368	1	0	0	367	0
E00072835	300	1	0	0	298	1
E00072837	532	6	1	0	525	0
E00147973	336	0	9	4	323	0
E00147974	236	0	0	2	234	0
E00147975	227	1	0	3	222	1
E00147977	397	7	0	7	383	0
E00148002	345	1	0	0	343	1
E00148003	329	1	1	3	324	0
E00148010	307	0	1	8	298	0
E00074468	216	1	0	2	213	0
E00074475	149	0	3	0	145	1
E00074489	128	0	1	2	124	1
E00074490	277	1	0	5	271	0
E00074491	213	0	1	3	208	1
E00074492	371	1	0	7	362	1
E00074493	196	1	0	3	192	0
E00074494	272	2	0	6	261	3
E00074609	201	0	1	5	195	0
E00148141	333	1	1	5	326	0
E00148366	344	7	0	9	328	0

Census table 2011: KS201EW ethnic group

output area	All persons	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other
E00072647	215	214	1	0	0	0
E00072649	277	272	1	1	0	3
E00072650	231	225	4	0	2	0
E00072656	331	327	4	0	0	0
E00072834	327	327	0	0	0	0
E00072835	317	316	0	0	0	1
E00072837	439	421	3	5	0	10
E00147973	322	316	5	0	1	0
E00147974	263	257	3	0	2	1
E00147975	240	238	1	1	0	0
E00147977	340	338	1	1	0	0
E00148002	327	325	1	0	1	0
E00148003	297	294	3	0	0	0
E00148010	324	318	5	0	0	1
E00074468	192	192	0	0	0	0
E00074475	171	171	0	0	0	0
E00074489	115	113	2	0	0	0
E00074490	298	291	2	2	3	0
E00074491	206	205	0	1	0	0
E00074492	323	313	7	1	2	0
E00074493	174	172	2	0	0	0
E00074494	237	235	1	0	0	1
E00074609	179	179	0	0	0	0
E00148141	283	279	3	1	0	0
E00148366	334	333	0	1	0	0

Appendix 8: General health

(all usual residents)

Census table 2021: TS037 general health

output area	All usual residents	Very good health	Good health	Fair health	Bad health	Very bad health
E00072647	208	139	52	13	4	0
E00072649	302	185	93	22	2	0
E00072650	252	123	84	32	7	6
E00072656	363	207	108	45	1	2
E00072834	368	221	102	29	13	3
E00072835	300	166	91	34	6	3
E00072837	532	296	158	60	12	6
E00147973	336	178	120	31	4	3
E00147974	237	126	85	20	4	2
E00147975	228	115	81	26	5	1
E00147977	398	189	150	48	10	1
E00148002	347	172	122	40	9	4
E00148003	330	181	100	42	6	1
E00148010	307	150	114	35	6	2
E00074468	217	121	67	20	7	2
E00074475	147	61	42	33	5	6
E00074489	128	68	40	14	5	1
E00074490	277	159	75	28	13	2
E00074491	212	113	82	14	1	2
E00074492	371	217	110	33	7	4
E00074493	195	84	62	29	18	2
E00074494	274	161	86	19	7	1
E00074609	200	89	80	25	6	0
E00148141	333	174	116	34	7	2
E00148366	344	166	131	34	9	4

Census table 2011: QS302EW general health						
E00072647	215	141	57	12	3	2
E00072649	277	165	83	22	5	2
E00072650	231	101	87	29	11	3
E00072656	331	179	110	38	3	1
E00072834	327	188	99	32	5	3
E00072835	317	175	97	37	6	2
E00072837	439	251	120	52	16	0
E00147973	322	169	95	44	10	4
E00147974	263	141	90	27	3	2
E00147975	240	129	77	28	6	0
E00147977	340	155	127	51	7	0
E00148002	327	170	117	32	7	1
E00148003	297	139	109	42	4	3
E00148010	324	186	86	40	9	3
E00074468	192	91	70	25	6	0
E00074475	171	48	59	50	10	4
E00074489	115	51	50	11	1	2
E00074490	298	152	102	38	4	2
E00074491	206	117	70	16	3	0
E00074492	323	180	106	31	5	1
E00074493	174	78	57	28	8	3
E00074494	237	122	85	24	5	1
E00074609	179	89	60	26	2	2
E00148141	283	135	114	23	9	2
E00148366	334	151	139	34	6	4

Appendix 9: Disability

(all usual residents)

Census table 2021: TS038 disability

output area	All usual residents	Disabled under the Equality Act	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Not disabled under the Equality Act	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions
E00072647	206	21	8	13	185	8	177
E00072649	300	32	5	27	268	25	243
E00072650	252	51	14	37	201	13	188
E00072656	366	52	13	39	314	36	278
E00072834	368	56	18	38	312	22	290
E00072835	300	38	10	28	262	26	236
E00072837	531	84	31	53	447	42	405
E00147973	338	56	16	40	282	25	257
E00147974	235	25	8	17	210	16	194
E00147975	227	28	14	14	199	25	174
E00147977	396	72	32	40	324	39	285
E00148002	345	48	17	31	297	19	278
E00148003	330	51	10	41	279	23	256
E00148010	307	47	15	32	260	25	235
E00074468	216	34	7	27	182	14	168
E00074475	148	29	18	11	119	9	110
E00074489	128	20	5	15	108	11	97
E00074490	277	38	14	24	239	24	215
E00074491	212	19	6	13	193	21	172
E00074492	371	42	14	28	329	35	294
E00074493	198	40	20	20	158	13	145

E00074494	274	37	11	26	237	20	217
E00074609	201	39	14	25	162	16	146
E00148141	333	54	12	42	279	24	255
E00148366	342	62	25	37	280	35	245

Census table 2011: KS301EW health and provision of unpaid care

output area	All usual residents	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Day-to-day activities not limited
E00072647	215	7	12	196
E00072649	277	12	29	236
E00072650	231	18	28	185
E00072656	331	18	23	290
E00072834	327	13	35	279
E00072835	317	14	26	277
E00072837	439	20	39	380
E00147973	322	21	42	259
E00147974	263	13	24	226
E00147975	240	9	24	207
E00147977	340	19	39	282
E00148002	327	18	28	281
E00148003	297	13	31	253
E00148010	324	22	29	273
E00074468	192	8	19	165
E00074475	171	40	33	98
E00074489	115	4	12	99
E00074490	298	13	25	260
E00074491	206	5	18	183
E00074492	323	19	29	275
E00074493	174	18	22	134

E00074494	237	9	19	209
E00074609	179	8	21	150
E00148141	283	16	22	245
E00148366	334	29	15	290

Appendix 10: Car or van availability

(all households)

Census table 2021: TS045 car or van availability

output area	All households	No cars or vans in household	1 car or van in household	2 cars or vans in household	3 or more cars or vans in household
E00072647	71	3	10	30	28
E00072649	116	7	31	51	27
E00072650	105	11	35	38	21
E00072656	144	6	33	64	41
E00072834	148	5	56	57	30
E00072835	126	3	35	69	19
E00072837	213	6	65	91	51
E00147973	123	1	37	50	35
E00147974	99	6	32	36	25
E00147975	93	1	21	41	30
E00147977	153	8	37	63	45
E00148002	127	0	33	45	49
E00148003	137	4	41	53	39
E00148010	155	11	66	57	21
E00074468	85	1	20	31	33
E00074475	50	2	18	18	12
E00074489	49	4	13	19	13
E00074490	126	3	52	54	17
E00074491	94	8	30	35	21
E00074492	148	5	45	73	25
E00074493	88	17	37	28	6
E00074494	102	1	25	50	26
E00074609	81	1	22	35	23
E00148141	128	3	33	59	33
E00148366	130	5	29	54	42

Census table 2011: car or van availability

output area	All households	No cars or vans in household	1 car or van in household	2 cars or vans in household	3 cars or vans in household	4 or more cars or vans in household
E00072647	71	1	14	34	10	12
E00072649	113	9	26	49	20	9
E00072650	101	7	46	31	12	5
E00072656	134	6	33	69	21	5
E00072834	141	8	43	60	20	10
E00072835	126	10	28	59	22	7
E00072837	185	12	57	73	31	12
E00147973	125	5	38	61	15	6
E00147974	94	5	29	34	16	10
E00147975	94	5	22	44	12	11
E00147977	139	9	40	54	23	13
E00148002	120	2	34	53	21	10
E00148003	118	2	35	54	19	8
E00148010	143	9	60	60	11	3
E00074468	80	1	11	36	21	11
E00074475	52	2	18	20	9	3
E00074489	55	3	24	22	4	2
E00074490	129	6	49	50	21	3
E00074491	92	6	29	34	15	8
E00074492	137	7	42	67	17	4
E00074493	82	15	38	21	5	3
E00074494	92	0	22	40	21	9
E00074609	74	3	23	27	14	7
E00148141	124	6	31	57	20	10
E00148366	129	2	35	56	28	8

Appendix 11: Distance travelled to work

(all usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the census)

Census table 2021: TS058 distance travelled to work

output area	All employed residents aged 16 years +	Less than 2km	2km to less than 5km	5km to less than 10km	10km to less than 20km	20km to less than 30km	30km to less than 40km	40km to less than 60km	60km and over	Works mainly from home	other
E00072647	114	3	8	7	20	2	0	2	0	60	12
E00072649	150	3	0	9	19	15	1	0	2	85	16
E00072650	123	5	3	10	20	9	0	0	1	57	18
E00072656	157	5	5	12	26	16	1	0	1	74	17
E00072834	155	7	4	10	26	11	0	0	1	77	19
E00072835	145	6	1	11	24	5	1	1	1	76	19
E00072837	260	16	10	22	49	16	3	1	4	106	33
E00147973	164	7	10	18	21	8	3	1	4	68	24
E00147974	121	6	5	9	16	7	3	1	6	55	13
E00147975	100	1	2	13	16	7	3	1	2	38	17
E00147977	208	4	16	17	24	15	6	1	3	90	32
E00148002	201	6	8	15	37	17	1	0	0	82	35
E00148003	170	3	7	7	20	20	5	4	3	76	25
E00148010	174	7	15	10	11	15	7	0	1	75	33
E00074468	116	0	5	12	10	9	6	3	1	53	17
E00074475	56	0	2	5	10	5	4	1	1	17	11
E00074489	74	3	3	9	24	0	1	1	1	21	11
E00074490	125	2	8	6	19	3	0	1	0	67	19
E00074491	94	5	7	3	22	3	0	0	2	48	4
E00074492	172	10	6	8	29	7	0	0	2	90	20
E00074493	74	3	4	6	14	4	0	0	0	27	16
E00074494	130	3	7	10	25	7	0	0	2	62	14
E00074609	99	2	9	12	3	8	6	1	1	43	14

E00148141	160	3	11	29	18	20	2	4	0	48	25
E00148366	152	7	4	0	17	10	5	1	2	79	27

Census table 2011: QS702EW distance travelled to work

output area	All employed residents aged 16 to 74	Less than 2km	2km to less than 5km	5km to less than 10km	10km to less than 20km	20km to less than 30km	30km to less than 40km	40km to less than 60km	60km and over	Work mainly at or from home	Other
E00072647	114	2	4	13	47	5	2	0	1	31	9
E00072649	128	4	3	15	45	13	0	2	3	38	5
E00072650	124	11	12	11	38	11	3	0	2	25	11
E00072656	162	8	7	21	53	13	5	1	9	35	10
E00072834	153	10	8	15	45	23	0	1	7	32	12
E00072835	176	9	4	24	44	27	3	0	10	35	20
E00072837	229	16	7	24	68	33	4	2	7	54	14
E00147973	167	6	7	25	31	31	4	0	6	47	10
E00147974	140	7	5	26	29	12	2	1	5	39	14
E00147975	115	2	9	14	33	12	4	1	4	23	13
E00147977	187	7	23	17	24	20	5	4	4	68	15
E00148002	188	7	13	15	28	11	1	2	6	85	20
E00148003	149	4	8	19	23	23	1	4	3	45	19
E00148010	174	20	21	13	29	24	7	2	5	39	14
E00074468	100	4	10	22	7	14	4	1	5	17	16
E00074475	54	1	2	8	3	9	2	1	4	20	4
E00074489	73	10	5	10	19	3	1	1	2	15	7
E00074490	149	16	9	13	49	13	1	0	9	25	14
E00074491	96	8	4	14	29	10	1	1	6	14	9
E00074492	149	8	7	14	41	13	3	3	7	36	17
E00074493	85	8	6	10	28	10	1	0	3	9	10
E00074494	124	8	12	9	35	8	1	2	6	34	9
E00074609	98	5	22	12	5	11	4	2	3	22	12
E00148141	156	1	12	17	30	19	10	4	10	38	15
E00148366	170	6	9	14	27	28	6	7	9	45	19

Appendix 12: Industry

(all usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the census)

Census table 2021: TS060A industry

output area	Total	A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	B Mining and quarrying	C Manufacturing	D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	F Construction	G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	H Transport and storage	I Accommodation and food service activities	J Information and communication	K Financial and insurance activities	L Real estate activities	M Professional, scientific and technical activities	N Administrative and support service activities	O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	P Education	Q Human health and social work activities	R, S, T, U Other
E00072647	110	11	0	9	2	0	11	10	2	6	6	5	3	12	4	3	4	15	7
E00072649	149	4	0	10	0	1	10	17	1	3	9	11	5	27	2	5	14	25	5
E00072650	126	7	0	9	0	3	15	13	1	8	9	2	4	9	8	6	14	14	4
E00072656	157	1	0	7	1	6	13	19	5	0	9	7	6	20	7	4	20	23	9
E00072834	154	12	0	12	1	1	10	14	3	3	8	6	10	22	8	6	17	12	9
E00072835	148	2	2	10	1	2	9	20	3	6	6	6	0	21	11	7	17	16	9
E00072837	262	22	0	14	1	3	21	34	13	8	15	17	3	17	13	16	27	26	12
E00147973	169	15	0	19	3	1	18	19	6	13	9	4	2	13	5	6	19	14	3
E00147974	121	5	1	13	0	2	7	21	5	8	6	3	1	11	7	6	11	8	6
E00147975	102	3	0	10	0	0	10	11	3	3	6	4	2	13	7	3	11	8	8
E00147977	208	25	0	16	2	3	21	27	4	5	9	6	4	21	7	4	17	22	15
E00148002	198	44	1	22	0	2	18	31	4	11	9	3	2	15	5	3	9	11	8
E00148003	171	14	3	12	1	3	9	24	3	13	7	7	2	15	6	10	12	20	10
E00148010	175	7	0	21	2	1	8	22	6	6	13	1	5	12	12	6	24	20	9
E00074468	113	1	1	5	1	0	14	14	11	3	6	3	2	10	11	3	10	13	5
E00074475	55	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	1	1	5	3	3	4	0	7	4	5	7

E00074489	76	2	0	4	0	1	8	10	0	6	2	3	1	5	3	5	12	11	3
E00074490	129	2	0	11	0	1	13	7	3	2	8	7	0	21	9	4	19	14	8
E00074491	98	2	0	9	0	5	6	16	1	0	8	3	1	10	2	6	14	10	5
E00074492	179	2	0	10	0	3	14	20	4	10	15	7	3	19	13	15	19	19	6
E00074493	73	3	0	5	1	2	5	14	3	8	0	1	0	8	9	6	4	4	0
E00074494	134	4	1	8	0	0	16	13	2	7	9	6	4	11	8	6	16	15	8
E00074609	96	3	1	5	2	0	8	21	3	5	8	3	9	4	4	3	9	6	2
E00148141	160	5	0	9	1	0	19	22	2	12	9	10	3	13	10	7	21	12	5
E00148366	157	1	0	12	0	1	19	16	8	4	12	3	6	15	8	2	24	18	8

Census tables 2011: KS605EW & KS607EW industry

output area	Total	A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	B Mining and quarrying	C Manufacturing	D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	F Construction	G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	H Transport and storage	I Accommodation and food service activities	J Information and communication	K Financial and insurance activities	L Real estate activities	M Professional, scientific and technical activities	N Administrative and support service activities	O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	P Education	Q Human health and social work activities	R, S, T, U Other
E00072647	114	10	0	11	0	2	13	15	4	6	2	5	3	10	2	3	14	12	2
E00072649	128	7	0	13	0	0	10	11	4	9	10	7	4	10	6	2	13	19	3
E00072650	124	6	0	15	0	2	17	11	4	15	9	2	1	11	9	1	9	8	4
E00072656	162	0	0	11	0	5	13	21	4	11	5	11	3	19	5	12	19	17	6
E00072834	153	12	0	11	0	0	9	17	3	5	6	5	5	29	6	12	16	12	5
E00072835	176	5	1	13	0	1	19	21	8	13	10	4	3	23	10	4	13	17	11
E00072837	229	11	1	15	0	3	16	35	11	10	11	8	4	17	14	9	21	33	10
E00147973	167	15	0	20	0	1	8	18	4	12	3	3	2	21	5	8	22	22	3

E00147974	140	11	2	16	0	3	9	19	3	6	3	2	1	18	4	8	10	17	8
E00147975	115	4	3	17	0	1	9	10	4	3	8	7	2	13	4	7	11	10	2
E00147977	187	29	0	14	0	0	14	30	2	6	7	5	1	11	7	7	20	21	13
E00148002	188	41	1	21	0	1	21	13	4	9	9	5	3	14	7	6	11	14	8
E00148003	149	13	0	15	1	0	12	19	2	16	15	3	4	9	2	7	14	13	4
E00148010	174	7	1	11	0	1	13	20	4	8	4	5	1	19	8	9	26	17	20
E00074468	100	14	1	6	0	0	11	14	3	4	3	1	0	7	9	6	8	10	3
E00074475	54	5	0	1	0	1	4	6	1	6	1	2	0	7	1	5	3	8	3
E00074489	73	5	0	8	0	0	5	2	2	10	1	2	4	9	5	4	7	7	2
E00074490	149	8	0	11	0	1	12	18	7	8	8	6	2	18	6	8	13	19	4
E00074491	96	7	0	13	0	1	3	5	2	8	5	4	1	12	7	9	6	11	2
E00074492	149	2	0	16	0	0	15	11	4	9	8	12	7	13	13	11	11	10	7
E00074493	85	6	0	8	0	1	10	11	1	0	2	5	0	13	7	3	9	8	1
E00074494	124	5	0	8	1	2	15	8	4	8	1	7	3	18	4	8	12	15	5
E00074609	98	4	0	10	0	3	8	24	1	10	1	3	3	2	2	4	12	6	5
E00148141	156	9	0	11	1	2	13	17	5	10	5	5	6	14	6	11	15	21	5
E00148366	170	2	0	16	1	1	15	27	6	4	9	4	2	24	7	8	19	19	6

Appendix 13: Method used to travel to work

(all usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the census)

output area	Total	Work mainly at or from home	Underground, metro, light rail, tram	Train	Bus, minibus or coach	Taxi	Motorcycle, scooter or moped	Driving a car or van	Passenger in a car or van	Bicycle	On foot	Other method of travel to work
Census table 2021: TS061 method used to travel to work												
E00072647	112	60	0	0	1	0	0	44	3	1	1	2
E00072649	149	85	0	0	1	1	0	57	2	0	3	0
E00072650	125	57	0	0	0	0	0	58	1	2	5	2
E00072656	159	74	0	0	0	0	0	77	1	1	6	0
E00072834	156	77	0	0	2	0	0	69	2	0	6	0
E00072835	147	76	0	0	3	0	0	62	2	0	2	2
E00072837	262	106	0	0	2	1	0	126	9	3	12	3
E00147973	167	68	0	0	3	0	0	77	6	0	10	3
E00147974	119	55	0	0	0	0	0	51	3	0	9	1
E00147975	102	38	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	1	7	2
E00147977	207	90	0	0	0	0	1	102	3	0	10	1
E00148002	202	82	0	0	0	1	0	104	6	1	5	3
E00148003	171	76	0	0	1	0	1	81	2	1	9	0
E00148010	173	75	0	0	1	2	1	85	1	1	6	1
E00074468	114	53	0	1	0	0	2	50	2	1	5	0
E00074475	55	17	0	0	1	0	0	31	2	0	2	2
E00074489	75	21	0	0	1	0	1	44	4	1	2	1
E00074490	126	67	0	0	0	0	0	55	1	1	2	0
E00074491	97	48	0	1	0	0	0	38	2	1	7	0
E00074492	175	90	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	2	13	1
E00074493	73	27	0	0	0	0	0	41	2	0	3	0
E00074494	131	62	1	0	0	0	0	61	2	0	5	0
E00074609	97	43	0	0	1	0	0	52	0	1	0	0
E00148141	160	48	0	0	1	0	0	94	7	2	3	5
E00148366	157	79	0	2	0	0	0	68	1	1	5	1

Census table 2011: QS701ES method of travel to work

E00072647	163	22	0	2	2	0	1	71	1	4	10	1
E00072649	201	21	0	2	1	0	0	95	3	0	4	2
E00072650	171	16	0	2	1	0	0	93	4	0	8	0
E00072656	244	22	0	4	3	0	1	111	4	0	16	1
E00072834	236	22	0	3	4	0	0	104	4	3	11	2
E00072835	238	27	0	1	3	0	0	124	6	2	10	3
E00072837	329	35	0	5	2	0	1	164	7	2	13	0
E00147973	243	28	0	0	2	0	3	106	4	0	23	1
E00147974	191	27	0	0	5	2	0	85	4	2	10	5
E00147975	164	16	0	1	2	0	0	87	4	2	3	0
E00147977	264	41	0	2	3	0	0	116	7	2	14	2
E00148002	236	58	1	5	2	0	2	93	5	0	20	2
E00148003	230	27	1	1	2	0	2	102	3	0	10	1
E00148010	229	25	0	2	2	0	1	116	9	3	12	4
E00074468	154	12	0	2	0	0	1	76	2	1	5	1
E00074475	99	17	0	0	1	0	0	32	2	0	2	0
E00074489	96	7	0	1	1	0	1	51	3	0	9	0
E00074490	220	18	0	3	0	0	0	111	4	1	10	2
E00074491	157	9	0	0	2	0	0	65	6	4	8	2
E00074492	233	23	0	3	0	0	2	104	4	3	10	0
E00074493	118	7	0	2	2	0	2	62	5	0	3	2
E00074494	179	24	1	1	0	0	1	81	4	3	6	3
E00074609	148	9	0	1	1	1	0	71	5	0	4	6
E00148141	231	25	1	3	0	1	1	112	7	1	3	2
E00148366	260	29	1	3	0	0	0	118	8	1	10	0

Appendix 14: Occupation

(all usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the census)

output area	Total	1. Managers, directors and senior officials	2. Professional occupations	3. Associate professional and technical occupations	4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	5. Skilled trades occupations	6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7. Sales and customer service occupations	8. Process, plant and machine operatives	9. Elementary occupations
Census table 2021: Occupation										
E00072647	110	26	21	9	13	18	5	5	3	10
E00072649	151	34	41	29	12	9	6	9	6	5
E00072650	127	28	24	17	11	16	11	0	5	15
E00072656	158	33	43	28	15	11	10	7	5	6
E00072834	154	35	47	14	16	16	4	6	3	13
E00072835	146	29	44	14	12	14	10	7	5	11
E00072837	259	63	65	25	16	25	14	14	8	29
E00147973	164	28	36	24	14	20	7	8	5	22
E00147974	119	31	27	13	13	13	5	5	6	6
E00147975	103	25	25	13	10	13	5	1	5	6
E00147977	209	49	42	24	18	28	18	10	13	7
E00148002	205	43	27	15	18	47	11	7	11	26
E00148003	169	34	31	28	13	19	10	12	9	13
E00148010	174	29	36	38	11	25	12	8	10	5
E00074468	113	27	24	15	9	15	7	7	4	5
E00074475	56	12	16	10	3	5	4	1	3	2
E00074489	73	16	18	8	6	8	7	2	2	6
E00074490	129	22	46	12	11	13	13	2	5	5
E00074491	94	14	36	14	3	14	0	7	4	2
E00074492	177	43	45	30	12	10	9	3	10	15
E00074493	74	18	10	8	5	16	0	4	5	8
E00074494	133	32	35	15	9	16	14	4	3	5
E00074609	99	35	20	14	6	4	5	7	3	5

E00148141	160	20	35	24	15	22	13	12	8	11
E00148366	158	40	35	25	20	14	10	2	5	7
Census tables 2011: KS608EW to KS610EW occupation										
E00072647	114	15	24	10	15	29	3	3	5	10
E00072649	128	22	42	14	8	19	6	2	3	12
E00072650	124	19	20	11	14	17	11	3	15	14
E00072656	162	36	39	17	18	18	11	7	6	10
E00072834	153	31	36	17	16	22	12	2	6	11
E00072835	176	26	32	22	19	27	11	8	10	21
E00072837	229	32	55	25	25	31	11	11	15	24
E00147973	167	20	38	22	10	25	17	5	15	15
E00147974	140	24	25	14	17	14	13	9	13	11
E00147975	115	26	33	12	11	13	7	3	6	4
E00147977	187	40	37	21	13	29	15	9	9	14
E00148002	188	35	19	17	15	51	15	5	12	19
E00148003	149	21	33	18	12	25	10	8	11	11
E00148010	174	25	43	23	18	17	11	14	10	13
E00074468	100	19	17	13	10	22	6	3	1	9
E00074475	54	11	13	6	4	5	9	2	1	3
E00074489	73	17	7	8	8	11	4	2	7	9
E00074490	149	32	36	17	10	20	10	10	4	10
E00074491	96	13	26	18	6	11	4	2	5	11
E00074492	149	26	41	24	20	19	8	1	2	8
E00074493	85	8	11	10	10	15	8	4	8	11
E00074494	124	20	31	17	16	14	4	6	5	11
E00074609	98	23	21	11	6	12	4	7	3	11
E00148141	156	21	29	22	18	21	19	8	9	9
E00148366	170	32	48	18	20	21	13	3	4	11

Appendix 15: Economic activity

(all usual residents aged 16 years and over)

Census table 2021: TA066 economic activity

output area	All usual residents aged 16 +	Economically active (excluding full-time students)	Economically active (excluding full-time students): In employment	Economically active (excluding full-time students): Unemployed	Economically active and a full-time student	Economically active and a full-time student: In employment	Economically active and a full-time student: Unemployed	Economically inactive
E00072647	170	107	106	1	6	6	0	57
E00072649	244	148	145	3	3	2	1	93
E00072650	208	127	124	3	1	1	0	80
E00072656	293	158	151	7	8	8	0	127
E00072834	286	151	150	1	6	5	1	129
E00072835	253	157	149	8	0	0	0	96
E00072837	447	257	251	6	11	6	5	179
E00147973	281	161	157	4	8	8	0	112
E00147974	206	124	119	5	1	1	0	81
E00147975	196	103	99	4	1	1	0	92
E00147977	345	211	209	2	1	0	1	133
E00148002	301	208	202	6	5	4	1	88
E00148003	279	170	163	7	7	7	0	102
E00148010	273	179	174	5	0	0	0	94
E00074468	184	113	113	0	1	1	0	70
E00074475	138	56	54	2	2	1	1	80
E00074489	110	76	75	1	4	2	2	30
E00074490	234	129	124	5	0	0	0	105
E00074491	175	94	94	0	3	2	1	78
E00074492	304	181	171	10	5	4	1	118
E00074493	153	71	71	0	4	3	1	78
E00074494	212	130	128	2	4	4	0	78
E00074609	176	99	96	3	2	1	1	75
E00148141	270	153	153	0	6	6	0	111

E00148366	282	157	156	1	2	1	1	123
Census tables 2011: KS601EW to KS603EW economic activity								
output area	All usual residents aged 16 to 74	Economically active	Economically active: In employment	Economically active: Unemployed	Economically active: Full-time student	Economically Inactive		
E00072647	163	114	111	0	3	49		
E00072649	201	131	122	3	6	70		
E00072650	171	127	121	1	5	44		
E00072656	244	165	156	3	6	79		
E00072834	236	157	148	4	5	79		
E00072835	238	182	173	5	4	56		
E00072837	329	232	222	2	8	97		
E00147973	243	172	167	3	2	71		
E00147974	191	144	134	4	6	47		
E00147975	164	116	112	1	3	48		
E00147977	264	190	183	2	5	74		
E00148002	236	191	187	3	1	45		
E00148003	230	155	145	6	4	75		
E00148010	229	180	170	5	5	49		
E00074468	154	103	96	3	4	51		
E00074475	99	56	52	2	2	43		
E00074489	96	73	73	0	0	23		
E00074490	220	156	145	7	4	64		
E00074491	157	96	92	0	4	61		
E00074492	233	154	145	5	4	79		
E00074493	118	89	84	4	1	29		
E00074494	179	129	120	5	4	50		
E00074609	148	101	93	3	5	47		
E00148141	231	160	150	4	6	71		
E00148366	260	177	161	6	10	83		

State of the National Landscape Report 2022

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2025

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	10am 27 th November 2025	Paper C
Title:	5 Year Delivery Plan	
Presented by:	Tim Haselden	
To be discussed via facilitated workshop		

The Delivery Plan

The draft Management Plan 2025-2030 (also on this meeting agenda) will be supported by a Delivery Plan for the same timescale. Delivery of the management plan is a combination of 'business as usual' work by the organisations on the Partnership and projects that have been identified as needed via the consultation.

Like the Management Plan, the Delivery Plan is for the place, and for all organisations to deliver. The partnership should oversee the progress of the delivery plan at each meeting.

The proposal is that the Partnership focus on these four as a manageable amount of topics that will involve all organisations and require discrete steps to achieve that will ensure progress can be monitored. These will form the basis of the Partnership's 5 Year Delivery Plan.

Four key deliverables have been identified during the recent review of the management plan;

- 1. Produce a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.**

Reason: Each protected landscape must adopt an adaptation plan by 2028.

- 2. Restore or create more than 78hectares per year of a range of wildlife-rich habitats, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).**

Reason: This is Target 1 of the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.

- 3. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 1.8% (12.5ha per year) of total land area in the Mendip Hills NL to 16.3% by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).**

Reason: This is Target 8 of the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.

- 4. Produce a recreation strategy.**

Reason: Access issues were a consistent theme from the feedback gathered during the consultation. Visitor counter data recorded by the NL Team show on average a 10% increase in use of the rights of way network. Natural England recommended a recreation strategy should be produced in their response to the draft management plan.

At the Partnership meeting the NL Team will facilitate a session for all attendees to gather ideas on how their organisation can help each of these be delivered.

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	10am 27 th November 2025	Paper D
Title:	Capital spend allocation 2025-2026	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle	
For noting.		

Capital Allocation 2025 -2026

Defra have provided two amounts of capital 'uplift' funding this financial year.

Access for All

Budget £113k.

Reminder of criteria:

- metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path
- number of accessible toilets and rest stops
- number of disability accessible parking spaces
- number of accessible gates and gaps
- number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment
- number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary
- number of volunteer days
- number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved
- policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers

This has been allocated to:

Longleat, Black Rock path	£23000
Yeo Valley Way path	£15000
Strawberry Line	£30000
Strategic Access Delivery Group	£37000
Sustainable Recreation Officer	£8000

Capital Works

Budget £136,000

To be allocated to projects that help deliver 30x30 nature recovery, or deliver 'Innovation, Invest to Save, or Income Generation'.

Purchase of Ranger vehicle (Toyota HiLux). Lease agreement ends this year, estimated new lease deal would have been 2x more.	Innovation, Invest to Save or Income Generating	17,000
Deer Leap (Mendip National Nature Reserve) works to improve grazing regime on limestone grasslands. Includes perimeter fencing, water supply and troughs.	Progress Towards 30by30	10,000.00
Dolebury Warren (Mendip National Nature Reserve) works to improve grazing regime on limestone grasslands. Includes perimeter fencing, water supply, troughs and gates.	Progress Towards 30by30	15,000.00
Rent for office.	Innovation, Invest to Save or Income Generating	12,500.00
Develop qualitative survey for visitors/tourists to the Mendip Hills NL.	Innovation, Invest to Save or Income Generating	7,000.00
Natural flood management works to Black Down and Rowberrow	Progress Towards 30by30	10,000.00
Stone purchase and delivery for new drystone wall to connect habitats across Sandford Hill	Progress Towards 30by30	8,000.00
Contribution to MHNL Manager salary as directly attributable to administering all.	Both	8,000.00
Fencing Rodney Stoke reserve (Mendip National Nature Reserve) to improve grazing on limestone grassland.	Progress Towards 30by30	5,910.00
Somerset Wildlife Trust flail mower purchase.	Both	6,800.00
Gorse management at Westbury Beacon Reserve (Mendip National Nature Reserve), Butterfly Conservation Trust.	Progress Towards 30by30	6,348.00
Tree planting, veteran tree enhancement Bluebell Wood, Woodland Trust.	Progress Towards 30by30	4,560.00

Tree planting on north-facing slopes as per NR Plan (by NL Team)	Progress Towards 30by30	8,000.00
Species Recovery Trust - starved wood-sedge enhancement	Progress Towards 30by30	3,800.00
AWT drought adaptation equipment	Both	7,000.00
New volunteer ranger uniform	Innovation, Invest to Save or Income Generating	550.00
AWT dew pond restoration	Progress Towards 30by30	960.00
		131,428.00

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	10am November 2025	Paper E
Title:	National Landscape Team Activity Plan for 2025-26	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle	
For discussion		



Mendip Hills
National
Landscape

Mendip Hills National Landscape Team

Activity Plan 2025-26

Project Delivery

NATURE						
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj.	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Mendip Landscape Connections	Secure a development grant for the Mendip Landscape Connections programme.	TH, JH			Broad consultation completed with partners. Development meeting held with National Lottery Officer – advice given to submit a Project Enquiry Form first then a development bid to secure resources for submitting the full bid. This approach should result in a funded 2 year development stage to fully cost the main bid.	A
Mendip National Nature Reserve	Produce and initiate partnership management framework for the Mendip NNR.	JH, TH			Management framework has been completed and adopted by the Steering Group. Mendip NNR brand development work taking place, led by NT. MHNL capital uplift being allocated to various NNR projects.	A

Mendip Hills Fund	Submit a National Lottery Heritage Fund application to increase the fund.	JH/TH			To be developed.	R
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CLIMATE

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Climate Change Adaptation Plan	Build on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment in the MHNL Plan to create a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.	JH			Work to be progressed after management plan adopted. 3 staff members undertaken Carbon Literacy Training.	A
Tree planting	Support the planting of 4000 trees in line with the Nature Recovery Plan.	TH/NO			Needs development work prior to planting season – in partnership with Aldwick Estate.	A
Natural Flood Management	Produce a guide for land managers on Natural Flood Management on the Mendip Hills.	JH			Work to be progressed after management plan adopted.	A

PEOPLE

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Nature Recovery Plan Community Engagement	Promote the awareness of the champion species via a series of projects.	JH / TH			Mendip Nature Connections and Nature Calling projects are ways in which the engagement plan is being delivered. Promote the Champion Species Educational game to local schools and care homes. Develop a programme of nature-themed guided walks.	A

Mendip Nature Connections	Continue the project that supports people with mental health issues via a coordinated programme on farms and other sites. Secure long-term funding.	TH / MC			FiPL and WoE Healthier with Nature funded project successfully completed at end of April'25 with 60 sessions delivered, supporting c.300 participants (22 through long-term 6-18 week course)- currently producing an independent evaluation report. 3 months (with a view to 12 months) funding was secured to continue work through Somerset Community Learning, but due to staff departure we were unable to start the work in the delivery timeframe required and have therefore paused further activity until longer-term funding is secured and Somerset Council re-assess and re-grade the role appropriately.	R
My Mendip Memories	Secure remaining funding and deliver the 'My Mendip Memories' photography and film project.	TH/ AC			Full bid submitted to NLHF with Windrose Rural Media Trust – bid was unsuccessful, review meeting to be held to decide next steps.	R
Wells & Mendip Museum	Develop temporary exhibitions on nature recovery and the Special Qualities.	TH			Exhibition based on 'Menhir' images by Elizabeth Woodger, commissioned for the Cheddar Gorge projections event, was exhibited in the Wells Museum between 14 th August and end of October, coinciding with the Mendip Rocks! festival.	G
Top of the Gorge	Support the delivery of the adventure festival through pre-event meetings, on site staffing and volunteer rangers.	AC/ KD			The event took place on 7-8 June 2025. Approx 1100 attended the event. MHNL Team staff and volunteers attended the event. Poor weather reduced numbers on Saturday. MHNL continue to co-fund the organising consultant with the National Trust.	G
Access for All	Spend the allocated amount on a series of projects that make access easier for people across the Mendip Hills NL.	KD/ TH			Current draft spending plan for £113k; MHNL Strategic Access Delivery Group £37k Strawberry Line £30k Cheddar Gorge Loop (Black Rock path on Longleat side) £25k MHNL Team £13k	A
Visitor data collection and analysis	Deliver and analyse visitor counter data and The Big Visitor Count and develop a pilot visitor survey.	KD			2025 Big Visitor Count took place on May 3. Staff and volunteers recorded visitors at the usual 16 locations. Data is still being analysed but provisional results show an increase in numbers since 2019. Visitor counter data from the static recorders will be sent to landowners containing 2024 results.	A

PLACE

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Training	Deliver training programme for local councillors on the NL special qualities, nature recovery and planning system.	IB/TH			Commencing February 2026.	A
Management Plan	Review the management plan for adoption by local authorities in June 2025.	JH/IB			Formal consultation of the draft plan took place between 1/6 and 22/7. Final version will then be endorsed by the Partnership and then sent to the local authorities for adoption.	G
Nature Calling	Deliver the final year of the 'Nature Calling' programme for the National Art in the Landscape Mendip & Weston Hub	TH			'View In' immersive sonic experience took place 14-20 July in a disused shop in Weston town centre attracting over 900 people, and the 3 augmented reality audio trails in South Ward, Uphill and on Mendip are now live.	G

Core Delivery

Conserve & Enhance

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj.	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)

Blackmoor Reserve and Deer Leap	Update management plans and instigate works that conserve and enhance these sites, based around existing countryside stewardship schemes for Blackmoor and Deer Leap.	TH / NO			Blackmoor – wider areas have been roped off during spring for adders. A variety of habitat management has taken place including bracken crushing, removal of invasive species, tree planting, wall restoration, increasing open water coverage and path clearance. Deer Leap – community engagement work delivered via skylark art work. Clearance of public rights of way and protection of scheduled monument prior to improvements of visitor areas has been completed. LPA have now confirmed that a planning application is not required to carry out improvements to the car park and picnic area – these improvements, based on the consultation responses and available budget, will take place over the summer.	G
The Mendip Way	Improve the infrastructure of the route and signage. Develop the Walkers are Welcome groups.	TH / KD			To be developed using Access for All funds.	A
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Promote the benefits of the programme, support the allocation of project funds and administer the Local Assessment Panel.	JH			£256,000 already awarded to local projects. Lucy Stockton, current Farm Engagement Officer leaves in late June. Nick Donohue will commence as Farming Engagement Officer in September.	G
Raise Awareness						
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Mendip Rocks!	Work with SESC & Mendip Society to organise a programme of events aimed at family groups and people with geological	TH/ JC			Programme of 19 events took place September – October attracting 1497 people.	A

	interests during Sept and Oct.					
Online e-commerce	Develop the range of products available.	JH/ JC			Darker Side of Mendip book available (700 sold this year with all profits going to the Mendip Hills Fund) plus wildlife badges.	G
MHNL Website	Maintain visitor traffic to 50,000 Users & 65,000 sessions on NL website.	JC			29,000 Users up to 18/11/25 33,400 Sessions up to 18/11/25	A
Social media	Achieve 6500 followers on Facebook	JC			7.1k followers up to 18/11/25	G
	Achieve 18,000 views on YouTube	JC			8310 views up to 18/11/25	A
	Achieve 3500 followers on Instagram	JC			3288 followers up to 18/11/25	A
Enewsletters	Distribute a minimum of 24 newsletters (12 to the public list, 12 to the Partnership list)	JC			11 sent to the public	A
	Achieve 1900 on the newsletter database.	JC			2128 achieved	G
Talks & other opportunities	Deliver 10 talks (walks), including online events & attend relevant events.	JH, TH			11/4/25 St Cuthbert Out AGM x40 21/5/25 Danish academics x9 2/6/25 Wells Rotary talk x15 7-8/6/25 Top of the Gorge 1/7/25 Explore North Somerset x60 25/08/2025 MAC Nature walk, meadows and butterflies, 15 people	A

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Volunteer Rangers	Develop and implement a plan for achieving more volunteer input.	JH/ AC			Draft development plan produced.	R
	Plan and deliver the rota of site visits, meetings and social gatherings.	AC			On track. Regular volunteer rangers' meetings being held with specialist speakers.	A
	Distribute a monthly volunteer newsletter.	AC			5 sent	R
	Train 10 volunteers via Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA).	AC			To be planned for winter	A
	Restore 300m drystone wall via weekly practical tasks.	AC			On track with approx. 90m restored/rebuilt at Ebbor Grove Farm. 30m restored at Blackmoor Reserve.	A
Nature Recovery Task Volunteers	Maintain a weekly programme of tasks focussed on delivering the Nature Recovery Plan.	AC, NO			Weekly nature recovery tasks during winter, fortnightly during summer but balanced with increased volunteer wildlife surveys and monitoring.	A
Young Rangers	Programme and deliver their activities aimed at creating environmental decision makers of the future.	ALL			Meeting monthly.	A
Mendip Hills Fund	Achieve donations of >£20000	JH			£15,000 achieved. Fund opens in January.	A

	Administer the panel to award the grants.	JH			Panel to meet in March.	
Partnership, Management, Regional & National Work						
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership	Restructure the Partnership to make it a body that has greater influence on the future of the National Landscape.	JH			Paper presented to June Partnership meeting and approved.	A
NL Storage	Find alternative facility for tool storage.	JH			No progress	R
Partnership	Administer 4 x meetings per year minimum.	JH	ALL		On track	A
Officer Support Group	Administer 2 x meetings per year minimum	JH	ALL		See paper presented to Partnership at June meeting	A
Regional representation	Actively participate in regional and Somerset wide environmental partnerships that will benefit the Mendip Hills and protected landscapes	ALL	ALL		Somerset National Landscape staff day on 9/5 Attendance and support of: Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy Somerset Local Community Network x 2 Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership Churchill Area Woodland Group Cheddar Vision Group	G
National representation	Attend NLA meetings, contribute to responses,	ALL	ALL		Ongoing. Lead Officer meetings. Big Chalk Board	G

	forums and communications					
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Management Plan Review – Objectives/Policies